



Quality Improvement Funds have been developed and are offered through the child care resource and referral agencies to assist and support programs that are choosing to work toward/maintain an ExceleRate IL Circle of Quality. There are three areas to the Quality Improvement Funds: ExceleRate IL cohort, ExceleRate IL training stipend and accreditation assistance. Requests may be made in multiple areas.

#### **Accreditation Assistance:**

Accreditation is a voluntary process that provides child care programs the opportunity to examine their services based on recognized standards of high quality. The Accreditation Assistance option is for child care programs that are applying for or maintaining an ExceleRate IL Silver or Gold Circle of Quality.

The following accrediting organizations are approved for funding:

- [National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\)](#)
- [National Accreditation Commission for Early Care & Education Programs \(NAC\)](#)
- [National Association of Family Child Care \(NAFCC\)](#)
- [National Early Childhood Program Accreditation \(NECPA\)](#)
- [AdvancEd Accreditation – Early Learning](#)
- [American Montessori Society \(AMS\)](#)
- [Council on Accreditation \(COA\) – Early Childhood or School Age](#)

#### **To apply for Accreditation Assistance:**

Complete and submit pages 5, 6, 7, and 15 of the Quality Improvement Funds application and w9 with the program's information on it. Please also attach a copy of administrator or director's current IL Gateways Registry cards. Checks will be made payable to the Accrediting body. The child care program must submit a money order made payable to the accrediting body in the amount of 20% of balance of the accreditation cost, the application and all required documentation for the accreditation process. Illinois Action for Children will be responsible to submit payment and documentation to the accrediting body.