



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.

ExceleRate IL training stipends:

A \$10.00 per credit hour training stipend will be provided for the required training within the ExceleRate IL Circle of Quality the program is working towards/maintaining and is available only to the minimum staff required to attend that takes place within the fiscal year (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020) to the program. The required trainings for each Circle of Quality are listed at <http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com>.

- The minimum staff required to take training per the ExceleRate IL Circle of Quality
- Staff of licensed programs pursuing an ExceleRate IL Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle of Quality
- Staff are defined as
  - For Centers: program administrator and teaching staff. Program administrator is defined as the person responsible for the on-site day to day operation of the child care program which includes director, assistant director, director/teach (when spending 50% or more time in administration role). Teaching staff is defined as lead teacher, teacher, director/teacher (when spending 50% or more time in teaching role), teaching assistant.
  - For Family Child Care: the primary care provider and assistant.

To apply for a training stipend:

Complete and submit pages 5, 6, 7, and 13(for each staff member) of the Quality Improvement Funds application and w9 with the program's information on it. Please also attach a copy of each staff member's certificates or Professional Development Records through IL Gateways. If certificates are submitted, a copy of the staff member's current IL Gateways Registry cards will have to be submitted.