



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.

#### Quality Improvement Cohorts:

A Cohort is a group of individuals working towards a common goal. Illinois Action for Children will be offering cohorts that focus on two areas for quality improvement, learning environment and business practices. To participate in a QIC, your child care program must be working to obtain or maintain an ExceleRate Illinois Silver or Gold Circle of Quality.

Center-based programs should select an administrator and lead teacher to attend **ALL** cohort sessions. Family child care and group home owners are required to attend **ALL** sessions.

Every participant in a QIC will be expected to meet all requirements and expectations of the group including completing a program self-assessment and developing Continuous Quality Improvement Plans (CQIP) for your program. Please complete and submit **pages 5, 6, 7, 10, w9,** along with a copy of your **current IL Gateways Registry card** and a copy of your **Circle of Quality certificate/ExceleRate IL Orientation certificate.**

Because space is limited, not all applicants will be accepted into a cohort.