



**Child Care Resource & Referral**  
*of Midwestern Illinois*  
*A program of SAL Family and Community Services*

# Quality Improvement Funds

## Purpose of Quality Improvement Funds

Quality Improvement Funds have been developed and are administered through Child Care Resource & Referral on behalf of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to assist and support programs that are choosing to work towards/maintain an ExceleRate™ Illinois Circle of Quality. Funding for Quality Improvement Funds is provided by IDHS.

## ExceleRate™ Illinois Cohorts

A cohort is a group of individuals working towards a common goal. It not only provides an opportunity to learn and work on achieving the goal, but also provides an opportunity to develop relationships with your peers. The Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agency will offer cohort groups for programs working to improve the quality of care, working towards or maintaining an ExceleRate™ IL Silver or Gold Circle of Quality. Upon completion of the cohort requirements/expectations and the program's self-assessment, programs may request funds to help achieve objectives noted on the program's Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP).

Licensed child care programs working towards/maintaining an ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality may apply for an ExceleRate™ IL training stipend. The stipend applies only to the required training within the ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality that the program is working towards/maintaining and is available only to the minimum staff required to attend the training.

## ExceleRate™ Illinois Training Stipends

## 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.

For more information, visit our website at [www.childcareillinois.org](http://www.childcareillinois.org) OR contact Kimberly at CCR&R. Phone: (309) 205-3070 ext. 4009/ E-mail: [kstickell@salcommunityservices.org](mailto:kstickell@salcommunityservices.org)