

Changes to Quality First Participation

For Expansion-Funded Participants

Thank you for your participation in Quality First (QF), a program of First Things First (FTF). Federal COVID-19 relief funding by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through the Arizona Department of Economic Security Child Care Administration (DES) allowed Arizona to invest in child care by temporarily expanding participation in QF. Participants funded through ARPA are known as expansion-funded programs. Due to ARPA funding time limits, expansion-funded participation ends June 30, 2024.

Expansion-funded programs will transition to a new status.

Beginning on July 1, 2024, programs that joined Quality First through temporary federal pandemic relief funding will transition to one of three statuses.

FTF REGIONAL FUNDING

Some programs will move into FTF regionally funded QF openings as they become available. Selection is limited and will be based on regional and FTF priorities—with an emphasis on programs serving children in high-need communities.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

A limited number of programs will be able to continue their participation through an external funding option as a part of their participation in the Preschool Development Grant or High-Quality Early Learning program through the Arizona Department of Education.

WAITING LIST

Programs that are not moved to regional funding or funded externally will be placed on a waitlist until there is an opening available.

*Quality First will notify expansion-funded participants of their new status by email.
If you haven't received an email by May 1st, contact your QF coordinator for assistance.*