

Quality Improvement Awards: Frequently Asked Questions

Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network (MRTQ PDN) is partnering with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services (DHHS, OCFS) to offer Quality Improvement Awards (QIA) to early childhood and out-of-school time programs in Maine. Programs that have increased their Step rating with *Quality for ME*, Maine's quality rating and improvement system, are eligible to apply for these awards. The purpose of these awards is to recognize and reward programs for moving from Step 1 to 2 and/or Step 2 to 3 on *Quality for ME*.

Is my program eligible for a Quality Improvement Award (QIA)?

A program is eligible for a Quality Improvement Award (QIA) if:

- The program is enrolled with *Quality for ME*, Maine's quality rating and improvement system and has moved up the Steps:
 - From a Step 1 to a Step 2, or
 - From a Step 2 to a Step 3.
- The Step movement occurs between July 1, 2019-August 31, 2023.
- The program does not have a current conditional license. Upon resolution of Conditional status, the participant may apply for the Quality Improvement Award, if funding is still available.)

What are the QIA amounts?

Moving from a Step 1 to a Step 2 earns a one-time award of \$300.

Moving from a Step 2 to a Step 3 earns a one-time award of \$400.

Could my program be eligible for both awards?

Yes. If your program moves from a Step 1 to a Step 3 between July 1, 2019-August 31, 2023 your program could apply for both one-time awards, for a total of \$700.

Are there requirements for how the QIA can be spent?

No! These funds are awarded as a one-time payment to your program to be used as you choose.

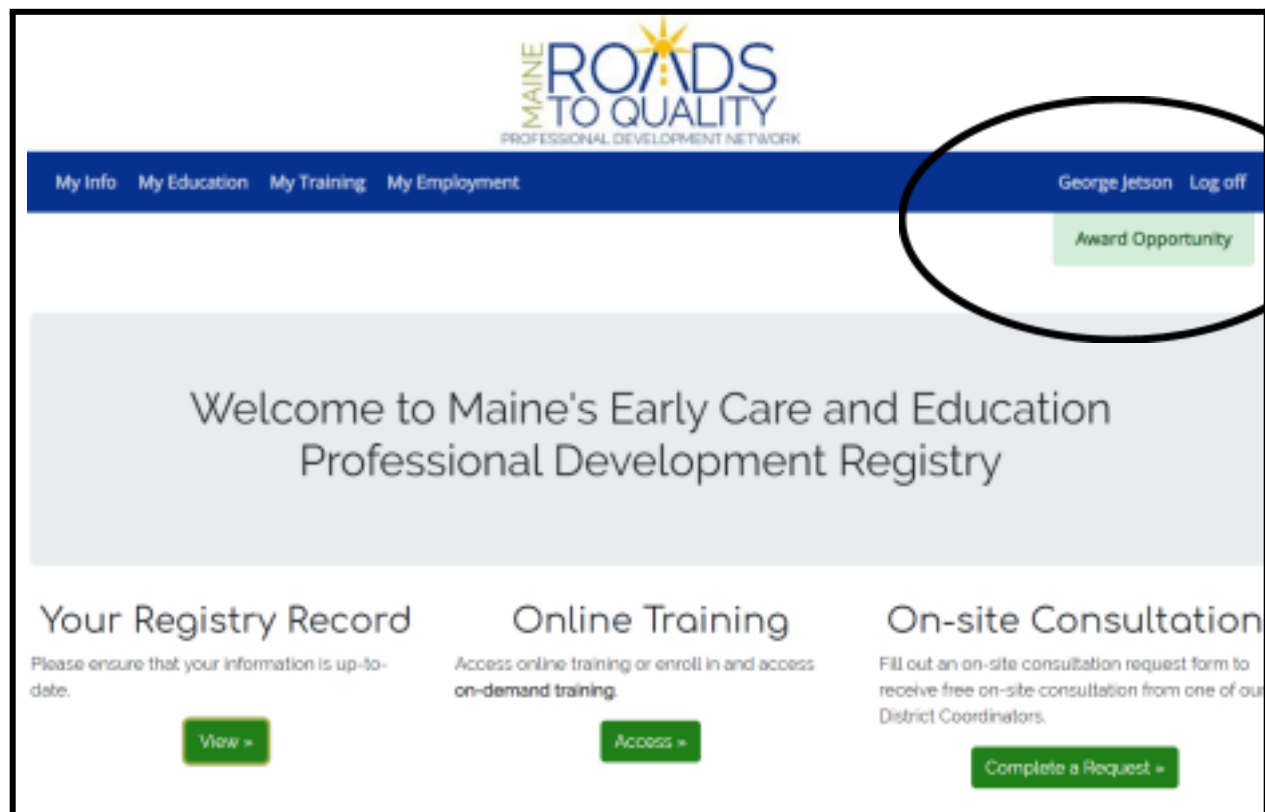
Is there a deadline to apply for a QIA?

QIAs are available between July 1, 2019-August 31, 2023. However, these awards are first-come, first-serve and will be awarded until funds are expended.

How can I apply for a QIA?

If you are designated as the Program Director or Family Child Care Owner at your program, you can log in to your Registry account at <https://mrtq-registry.org>.

1. If your program is eligible for a QIA, you will see a green notification in the top-right corner of your login page



2. Clicking on the "Award Opportunity" link will bring you to the application page:



3. Scroll down to find the brief application:.

General Information

Please update and/or complete the information below:

Director/Owner Name:*

George Jetson

Program License Number:*

123456

Number of children enrolled in your facility:*

Number of adults who work in your facility:*

The age groups in my facility are:
(Check all that apply)*

☐ Infants (6 weeks to 12 months)

☐ Toddlers (12 months to 30 months)

☐ Preschoolers (30 months to kindergarten)

☐ Out of School Time

I give permission for MRTQ PDN to announce this award in the weekly e-newsletter called SHORTcuts*

☐ Yes ☐ No

Note that all fields are required.



4. The final section of the application requires agreeing to the Terms and Conditions and an electronic signature:

Name of Child Care Program*

Demo Center

☐ I have read the above and agree to these terms and conditions.

First Name*

George

Middle Name/Initial

Last Name*

Jetson

Title*

Sign in the box below:

5. Completion of these fields will bring a green "submit" button to the bottom of the screen.

There is an additional step after you have completed the online application – you must confirm with Eric Norgaard, Registry Coordinator, that your program is a current vendor with the University of Southern Maine. Contact Eric at eric.norgaard@maine.edu or 207-780-4367 to check your program's vendor status.

Checks cannot be processed until this step is complete!

How and when will I receive my program's QIA?

Upon completion of the application and confirmation of current vendor status, MRTQ PDN will process payment requests. A check will be mailed to the program within 30-45 days. You can check the status of your QIA by contacting Eric Norgaard at eric.norgaard@maine.edu or 207-780-4367.



What else is required of my program?

MRTQ PDN will send your program a short, 3-4 question survey upon completion of the process. The survey will help MRTQ PDN gather information about this process to share with our current funder and future funders. Only aggregate data will be shared; no program names will be included in the survey results and your participation will not affect your program's eligibility for the QIA.

I have another question not covered here. Who can I contact?

The initial point of contact for QIAs is Eric Norgaard, who can be reached at eric.norgaard@maine.edu or 207-780-4367.