

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND TOOLS:

**RATING SCALES:** The ITERS, ECERS, FCCERS, AND SACERS are assessment tools that look at the environment in infant/toddler, preschool, family home, and school age child care settings. Our related support services include full local ratings, partial local ratings and/or preparation for Qualistar ratings.

**QUALISTAR RATINGS:** A formal rating process administered by Qualistar Colorado.

- A Quality Support Coach guides you in an in-depth review of a Qualistar Rating in preparation for a formal rating. Following the rating, a coach provides support to work through the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) developed as a result of the rating.
- Components include:
  - *Environment Rating Scales:* Formal ratings of each classroom in your program
  - *Family Partnerships:* Questionnaires completed by parents and by directors with emphasis on school/family relationships, resources provided for families, and family involvement in the children's learning experiences.
  - *Training and Education:* Score based on work experience and level of Early Childhood Education attained by providers.
  - *Ratios and Group Size:* Score based on observations at various intervals, using Qualistar standards.
  - *Accreditation:* Points given to programs that are accredited through a national organization.

**E-CARE:** a tool used by the primary caregiver to plan smooth transitions for children entering a new program or transitioning between rooms within a program. Our support includes training, supplying needed forms, and guiding staff through the process of assessing children related to transitions.

**DECA:** a tool that assesses children as individuals in relation to their social/emotional development including the resilience skills: attachment, initiative, and self-control. Our services include training, interpretation, and suggestions for relevant changes in the classroom.

**TAC (Talking Around the Clock in Childcare):** helps those who interact with and care for children establish important interactions with the children and assist in expanding children's skills in listening, talking, and communicating

**PYRAMID:** a model that provides ways to promote the social and emotional development of young children as a means of preventing challenging behaviors and teaching problem solving skills. This model will help you understand the dynamics of a classroom and help you identify what you can do differently to minimize challenging behaviors.

**OUNCE SCALE:** a research-based tool that enables caregivers and families to monitor a child's development by providing guidelines and standards for observing and interpreting growth and development.

**CLASSROOM PLANNING:** teaches ways to plan developmentally appropriate curricula that: Build on children's and teacher's strengths

- Meet standards
- Provide a balance of experiences
- Balance active/quiet opportunities
- Balance child-initiated/teacher directed activities
- Offer individual/small group/large group experiences