



Division of Family Development

**Thriving by Three Infant and Toddler Child Care Grant
Year 2 Recertification**

Licensed Child Care Centers

Licensed Center Recertification Eligibility

Eligible programs must:

- Comply with state and federal health and safety requirements for child care centers;
- Comply with current child care licensing standards for infant and toddler child care, including, but not limited to, class size, child-to-staff ratios and health and safety standards;
- Be in good standing (no enforcement action or fraud and/or funding misrepresentation investigation or misuse of funds);

Licensed Center Recertification Eligibility

Eligible programs must:

- Be open/operating and currently serving children;
- Complete a brief online Recertification Questionnaire; and
- Must have completed the Grow NJ Kids enrollment process (including orientation) prior to submitting the Recertification Questionnaire. **Enrollment process may take up to 60 days.**

***Providers who have not enrolled and completed Grow NJ Kids orientation are not eligible for Year 2 payment.**

Year 2 Grant Award Amount (awarded 12 months after initial grant award)

- Providers who **have not** yet reached a 3, 4 or 5 star rating in Grow NJ Kids at the time of Year 2 recertification will receive an additional minimum grant of \$1,200 per infant or toddler slot.
 - \$400 must be directed for teacher-related expenses (i.e., bonus or incentive).
- If you are rated 3, 4 or 5 stars in Grow NJ Kids at the start of Year 2, you are eligible for a \$200 per slot grant award along with a quality tiered rate – for children enrolled in New Jersey Child Care Assistance Program

Use of Grant Funds

- Providers are subject to monitoring and/or audit review of grant funds
- Providers must maintain records and other documentation to support the use of funds received and to document compliance
- Providers may be asked to produce records for verification purposes upon audit of Thriving by Three grant funds
- Providers agree to provide, for audit purposes, access to the child care facility, information and documentation related to the use of funds, and access to interview child care staff members

Use of Grant Funds

- Grant funds may be spent in the following approved categories:
 - Equipment/furniture
 - Materials/Toys/Supplies
 - Staff/Recruitment/Hiring
 - Other Needs (e.g., professional development, technical assistance, etc.)

How do I Recertify?

- Providers will access the Recertification Questionnaire in NJCCIS.
- Log in to your NJCCIS account and navigate to the Grants tab from your Quicklinks panel.
- Director, Owner/Director or Facility Administrator must complete the Recertification Questionnaire.

Recertification Period

- Recertification Questionnaire will be available on providers' NJCCIS Quicklinks panel beginning **February 15, 2024.**
- Completed Recertification Questionnaires must be submitted by **April 1, 2024.**
- Payment for providers who are approved for Year Two Grant Funds will be issued on the 1st day of the 12th month next following the date the initial grant award was paid.

Participation in Grow NJ Kids

- Provides resources to continuously improve child care programs
- Access to one-on-one Technical Assistance
- Professional Development and Training Opportunities
- Raises quality of care
- GNJK Rating = Higher Child Care Assistance Payment Rate

Commitment to Quality

- During the second year, providers must:
 - Complete a Grow NJ Kids Self-Assessment
 - Complete a Grow NJ Kids Quality Improvement Plan
 - Submit a Grow NJ Kids Rating Readiness form to initiate the rating process
 - Have all newly created slots filled by the end of Year 2


1 ENROLL

- Apply for enrollment in Grow NJ Kids through [NJCCIS](#).
- Receive a Welcome email and complete the online GNJK Orientation.
- Receive assignment of a Quality Improvement Specialist (QIS) after the GNJK Orientation is complete.
- Partner with your Quality Improvement Specialist (QIS) to get started.



2 INTRODUCTION

- Attend Health Safety and Child Growth and Development training.
- Review NJCCIS to ensure all staff are linked to the program.
- Receive overview of Grow NJ Kids and the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) for staff.
- Identify training and professional development goals for staff.



3 ASSESS

- Transition to a Regional Technical Assistance Center and meet your program's TA Specialist.
- Select an approved research-based curriculum and assessment pedagogy.
- Receive mentoring, coaching, and observation for the ERS tools from your TA Specialist.



☆☆ GROW NJ KIDS ROAD TO QUALITY ☆☆

4 PLAN

- Complete a customized Grow NJ Kids program Self-Assessment with support from your TA Specialist.
- Develop your program's Quality Improvement Plan goals.
- Programs that qualify submit a request for classroom enhancements and learning material needs identified in your Self-Assessment.




5 SUPPORT

- Partner with your TA Specialist to implement your Quality Improvement Plan.
- Gather and review rating documentation and professional development certifications.
- Conduct internal Environment Rating Scale observation assessments for all age groups to prepare for rating.



6 RATING

- Meet Quality Improvement Plan criteria for star rating you intend to obtain.
- Submit application and documentation for rating through NJCCIS.
- A representative from GNJK Rating at CREHS will contact your program to arrange the rating process details.



7 CQI

- Maintain achieved level of care and professional development with continuous quality improvement and rating renewal.
- A Grow NJ Kids star rating is valid for three years.
- Apply for re-rating after 3 years. Preparation begins at least 6 months prior.



NOTE:
 The rating process is tailored to your individual program needs and takes an average of 18-24 months (about 2 years) to complete. Staff will attend formal training offerings based on individualized professional development plans. This begins during the introduction and continues throughout process.



Enroll in Grow NJ Kids Today!

www.GrowNJKids.gov/ProvidersEducators/Enroll

Help New Jersey's
youngest kids thrive.

Enroll in Grow NJ Kids today!

Grow NJ Kids is New Jersey's new quality rating and improvement system. With this system, New Jersey joins over 45 other states in creating universal standards of quality for all child care and education programs (Head Start, Child Care, Preschool, etc.). By enrolling in Grow NJ Kids, you too will have a way to showcase to parents your program's commitment to quality.

Based on a rating system, Grow NJ Kids provides the framework for programs to continue to meet high quality standards in each of the following areas:

Safe, Healthy Learning Environment
Curriculum and Learning Environment
Family and Community Engagement
Workforce/Professional Development
Administration and Management

As a child care provider or early learning program, you already know the importance of high quality early care and education. Now, Grow NJ Kids is giving you better access to the tools to help you keep improving.

Grow NJ Kids provides you with:

- an assessment tool to review your program;
- a clear road map for improving quality;
- professional development and training opportunities;
- access to one-on-one targeted technical assistance from Grow NJ Kids specialists;
- mentoring to guide you through the process; and
- a way to market to parents your higher quality program.

To enroll or for more information, visit:
www.GrowNJKids.gov/ProvidersEducators/Enroll

New Jersey Departments of Children and Families, Education, Health, and Human Services
PHH/WaSp; Governor - Sheila O'Neil, LL Governor
09/2/12 10:00 AM



grow
nj kids
.com

Need Guidance or Technical Assistance?

- General questions about the Thriving by Three Grant Year 2 Recertification:
DFD-ChildCareGrants@dhs.nj.gov
- Questions about Grow NJ Kids enrollment and process:
info@GrowNJKids.com
- NJCCIS account-related questions or for assistance completing the Thriving by Three Grant Year 2 Recertification Questionnaire:
NJCallCenter@e-tcc.com or 1-800-332-6512

Additional Information

A recording of this presentation will be posted to the Thriving by Three page of our website at:

<https://www.childcarenj.gov/Providers/Grants/ThrivingbyThree/Centers>



Important Resources/Contacts

- **DFD website for information about the Thriving by Three Grant:** <https://www.childcarenj.gov/Providers/Grants/ThrivingbyThree/Centers>
- **Send general grant questions to:** DFD-ChildCareGrants@dhs.nj.gov
- **Send questions about Grow NJ Kids enrollment to:** info@GrowNJKids.com
- **Send NJCCIS account-related questions to:** NJCallCenter@e-tcc.com