Application for "Granite Steps for Quality"

Check Type of Application:	□ New	☐ Renewal (Every 3 Years)		
Quality Step Applying for:			Selected Pathway:	
Program Name:			License Number:	Federal ID:
Name of Program Director:			Email:	
Name of Owner:			Email:	
Ages Served (If program has	a summer OST pro	gram include in ages served):		
Telephone Number:				
Physical Address:			City:	State & Zip:
Mailing Address:			City:	State & Zip:
		Instructions		
 ALL Programs will comp 	olete and submit p	ages 1-3 & page 13.		
• The remaining portion of the	ne application can b	e found on the following pages	, separated by program type.	
			rly Afterschool) age groups, then you mus ood Programs Rubric and Out-of-School T	
Please indicate which applicate which do not apply.	ation(s) apply to your	program and submit the applicable	e portion. You may opt not to print or to d	iscard those
☐ Pages 4-8: A	pplication for Cente	r Based Early Childhood Progra	ıms	
☐ Pages 9-10: <i>I</i>	Application for Fam	ily Child Care		
☐ Pages 11-12:	Application for Out	-of-School Time (formerly After	school) Programs	

•	All programs will need a Vendor Number in order to invoice for and receive Quality Payments. If your program already has a Vendor Number, please enter it below. If you do not have a Vendor Number, please visit the <u>State of New Hampshire Vendor Registration Page</u> and complete the registration steps. Once your Vendor Number has been issued, please enter it below.
	☐ Yes, I have a Vendor Number ☐ I've applied for a Vendor Number and will provide it as soon as I receive it
	Vendor Number:
•	All programs will need to be enrolled by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Economic and Housing Stability to provide child care services for children in employment related care (Child Care Scholarship), please place a check mark in the appropriate box below, and include your Bridges Resource ID #.
	☐ Yes, I Am Enrolled for Employment ☐ I've applied for a Bridges Resource ID # and will provide it as soon as I receive it
	Bridges Resource ID Number (Child Care Scholarship):
•	If you are enrolled by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), to provide child care services for children in preventive or protective care, please place a check mark in the appropriate box below, and include your Bridges Resource ID #.
	☐ Yes, I Am Enrolled for Preventive or Protective Child Care ☐ No, I Am Not Enrolled
	Bridges Resource ID Number (P&P):
•	Programs that have been issued a Quality Step will need to complete and submit a renewal application every three years, indicating any changes to their application and program.
•	Keep a copy of this application and supporting criteria for your records.
•	If you have questions or need further information contact the Professional Development Specialist at (603) 271-9604 OR NHGSQ@dhhs.nh.gov

• Submit this application and all supporting documentation to:

DHHS/DCYF/Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration Attn: Credential Specialist 129 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301

All Programs Must Complete "In Order to Apply" Steps and "Prerequisites" to Participate in GSQ

In Order to Apply	Criteria	Steps to Complete
Update NHCIS Program Profile (Director/Admin)	Username and Password established in NHCIS. Program Profile updated to every extent possible. If updates are unable to be made, a Help Desk ticket is submitted to describe the issue.	□ Date Program Profile was last updated:
NHCIS Registry Profiles	Username and Password established in NHCIS for all staff.	☐ Profiles Complete in NHCIS
Prerequisites	Criteria	Steps to Complete
Child Care Program License	The program holds an active child care license for a minimum of 12 months.	☐ The program holds an active child care license from the NH DHHS Child Care Licensing Unit
Children: The Bedrock of the Granite State Presentation (included in Embedded Video)	Watch the "Children: The Bedrock of the Granite State" Presentation. Resources: Children: the Bedrock of the Granite State Presentation, Self-Study Form	☐ Completed Self-Study PD Documentation included with application
Resource: NH Business Management and Director Collection Links Completed by individual responsible for administrative aspects of program (Director/Admin. or Owner)	Complete two of the following NH Business Management and Director Trainings offered through Child Care Aware of NH and ProSolutions: Taking Care of Business: An Administrator's Overview Leading with Heart: How to Build Effective Teams Successful Coaching and Mentoring for Employee Growth An Administrator's Overview of Assessment in Early Care and Education *Creating a Business Plan for Your Family Child Care Program *Budgeting and Financial Planning for your Family Child Care Program *These trainings are most applicable to Family Child Care Providers	 □Copies of certificates included with application AND □ Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript
The program is enrolled to receive NH Child Care Scholarship Program payments on behalf of families who are eligible.	Identify your program type Complete NH Child Care Scholarship Enrollment Forms Resource: https://www.nh-connections.org/child-care-scholarship/ more about enrolling to accept the NH Child Care Scholarship Program payments.	☐ Program must be accepted in NH Child Care Scholarship Program

Center Based Program Application

Instructions:

- The Staff Qualifications and Learning Environment Standards have 4 Steps of Recognition. Apply for one step. Programs must demonstrate meeting the criteria for the same selected Step from Standards 1 and 2.
- The Learning Environment Standard is further broken down into the two pathways: Environment Rating Scales and Pyramid Model. Choose one pathway.
- Confirm the requirements have been completed at the Step you choose.

Standard 1: Staff Qualifications		Criteria	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Steps to Complete
This standard ensures that all administrators and teachers	•	An administrator and 20% of eligible staff hold a current NH Early Childhood Credential*.	4				 □ Complete list of active staff provided □ Eligible staff identified □ Staff holding credentials are clearly indicated
are qualified and committed to ongoing professional development.	•	An administrator and 40% of eligible staff hold a current NH Early Childhood Credential*.		4			 □ Complete list of active staff provided □ Eligible staff identified □ Staff holding credentials are clearly indicated
	•	Administrator and 60% of eligible staff hold a current NH Early Childhood Credential* of which 30% hold a minimum of an Early Childhood Teacher Level 4 (2015) with 6 additional ECE credits, or Early Childhood Educator 1 (2022). Head Start Programs may meet this criteria by presenting documentation relative to teacher Qualifications from their most recent OHS Monitoring Report. NAEYC Accredited Programs may meet this criteria by presenting their current NAEYC Accreditation certificate.			4		 □ Complete list of active staff provided □ Eligible staff identified □ Staff holding credentials are clearly indicated OR □ Head Start documentation provided OR □ NAEYC Certificate provided
	•	Administrator and 80% of eligible staff hold a current NH Early Childhood Credential* of which 40% hold a minimum of an Early Childhood Teacher Level 5 (2015) or Early Childhood Educator 2 (2022).				4	 □ Complete list of active staff provided □ Eligible staff identified □ Staff holding credentials are clearly indicated

Standard 2: Learning Environments (Choose one pathway)	Criteria	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Steps to Complete
A: ERS Pathway The Environment Rating Scales	 Administrator and 25% of eligible staff have completed an approved ERS training. Trainings must reflect ages served in program (Teachers should complete ERS training with their classroom age group) Admin can take most applicable ERS training based on program need. 	4				Administrator and Staff have completed approved ERS Training ☐ Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND ☐ Copies of certificates provided with application
(ERS) are designed to assess what children directly experience in their program that has a precise effect on development.	 Administrator and 25% of eligible staff have completed an approved ERS training Trainings must reflect ages served in program (Teachers should complete ERS training with their classroom age group) Admin can take most applicable ERS training based on program need. Program submits ERS self-assessments for all classrooms using age appropriate ERS tools. 		4			Administrator and Staff have completed approved ERS Training Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND Copies of certificates provided with application Completed ERS Self-Assessments for All Classrooms provided
The Learning Environment includes interactions children have with other children, staff, space, materials and equipment in their environment.	 Administrator and 25% of eligible staff have completed an approved ERS training Trainings must reflect ages served in program (Teachers should complete ERS training with their classroom age group) Admin can take most applicable ERS training based on program need. Program submits ERS self-assessments for all classrooms using age appropriate ERS tools ERS observations are completed in one third of classrooms. Observed scores must be an average of 3.5 or higher with no classroom scoring less than 2.5 on the subscales: Activities and Interactions. Head Start Programs may meet this criteria by documenting meeting three out of five of the following Performance Standards (1302.30, 1302.31, 1302.45, 1304.21 and 1304.53) during their most recent federal monitoring visit using NHCIS. 					Administrator and Staff have completed Approved ERS Training Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND Copies of certificates provided with application Completed ERS Self-Assessments for All Classrooms provided An ERS Assessor will be assigned by BCDHSC Staff and will be in touch with you regarding potential assessment dates. The Assessor will provide the Bureau and the program with completed scores via email and at that time, the Step awarded will be determined. OR Head Start documentation provided OR NAEYC summary of visit/scores provided

	 NAEYC Accredited Programs may meet this criteria by presenting documentation of meeting NAEYC Standards. Administrator and 25% of eligible staff have completed an approved ERS training Trainings must reflect ages served in program (Teachers should complete ERS training with their classroom age group) Admin can take most applicable ERS training based on program need. Program submits ERS self-assessments for all classrooms using age-appropriate ERS tools ERS observations are conducted in one half of classrooms. Observed scores must be an average of 4.5 or higher with no classroom scoring less than 3.5 on the subscales: Activities and Interactions. 			A	Administrator and Staff have completed approved ERS Training Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND Copies of certificates provided with application Completed ERS Self-Assessments for All Classrooms provided An ERS Assessor will be assigned by BCDHSC Staff and will be in touch with you regarding potential assessment dates. The Assessor will provide the Bureau and the program with completed scores via email and at that time, the Step awarded will be determined.
B: Pyramid Model Pathway The Pyramid Model provides early educators a way to build skills for supporting nurturing and responsive caregiving, to create learning environments, to provide targeted social- emotional skills, and to support children with	 Administrator and all eligible staff have completed: <u>Building Positive Social Emotional Skills for All Children: Introducing the Pyramid Model Framework</u> Administrator and 25% of eligible staff complete at least two modules (minimum of 12 hours) of Pyramid Model: Infant & Toddler, Preschool or Birth through Five Trainings. 	4			Administrator and Staff have completed required PM Trainings Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND Copies of certificates provided with application

challenging behavior.	 Administrator and all eligible staff have completed: Building Positive Social Emotional Skills for All Children: Introducing the Pyramid Model Framework A consistent cohort that includes representatives of program administration and 25% of teaching staff complete the Professional Learning Community (PLC), "Program Wide Pyramid Model Implementation: An Introduction and Overview for Child Care Providers" and have confirmed commitment to Pyramid Model pathway. Program has established a leadership team, created mission and vision statements, completed their Benchmarks of Quality (BoQ) and created their action plan based on the BoQ An administrator and 25% of eligible staff have completed Pyramid Wellness: Taking Care of Yourself and all lessons included in one of the following trainings: Infant & Toddler, Preschool or Birth through Five Trainings (Mods 1-3). 	4		Administrator and 25% of Staff have completed required PM Trainings Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND Copies of certificates provided with application Administrator and Staff have completed PLC Certificate of completion provided Statement of Commitment provided Ist of Pyramid Model Leadership Team Members Mission and Vision Statements Documentation of Completed BoQ Documentation of Action Plan Based on BoQ Documentation of Monthly Leadership Team Meetings If you were involved in Pyramid Model work as an implementation site prior to applying for GSQ, please provide the source of your funding:
	 Program has met training requirements from Step 1 & 2 Program has established a leadership team, created mission and vision statements, completed their Benchmarks of Quality (BoQ) and created their action plan based on the BoQ Leadership team is actively engaged (meets monthly), Practice-Based Coaching and Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) or Teaching Pyramid Infant-Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS) is occurring in at least 1 classroom in the program An administrator and 50% of eligible staff have completed Pyramid Model: Trauma-informed Care and Reducing Implicit Bias trainings. 		*	 □ All items completed and evidenced from Steps 1 and 2, above □ Provide coach's name and email address for documentation of TPOT or TPITOS dates: □ Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcripts AND □ Certificates provided for administrator and 50% of eligible staff having completed Trauma-informed Care and Reducing Implicit Bias

 Program has met training requirements from Steps 1-3 Leadership team is actively engaged (meets monthly), Practice-Based Coaching and Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) or Teaching Pyramid Infant-Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS) is occurring in at least 1 classroom in the program Pyramid Model practices are being implemented to fidelity as evidenced by TPOT and TPITOS data and the Leadership Team is collecting, analyzing, and using data for program improvement Administrator and 50% of all eligible staff have completed the Prevent Teach Reinforce for Young Children (PTR-YC) training. 				4	 □ All items completed and evidenced from Steps 1 thru 3, above □ Documentation of Program Improvement Plan based on TPOT or TPITOS data □ Certificates provided for administrator and 50% of eligible staff having completed Prevent Teach Reinforce for Young Children (PTR-YC) Training
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^{*}Accepted NH Early Childhood Credentials include:

2015 Version: Early Childhood Teacher Level 2 +, Early Childhood Master Teacher Level 1+, Early Childhood Administrator Level 1+, Early Childhood Master Professional (any endorsement)

2022 Revised Version: Early Childhood Associate Educator or higher, Early Childhood Administrator 1+, Early Childhood Professional Development Specialist (any endorsement)

Family Child Care Application

Instructions:

- The Staff Qualifications and Learning Environment Standards have 4 Steps of Recognition. Apply for one step. Programs must demonstrate meeting the criteria for the same selected Step from Standards 1 and 2.
- Confirm the requirements have been completed at the Step you choose.

Standard: Staff Qualifications	Criteria	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Steps to Complete
Staff Qualifications	 Provider meets licensing requirements. 	4				☐ Active child care license
This standard ensures that all providers are	 Provider holds a NH Early Childhood Credential* or a NH Out- of-School Time Credential.** 		-			☐ Provider awarded NH Early Childhood or NH Afterschool Credential(s)
qualified and committed to ongoing professional development.	 Provider holds a minimum of one of the following NH Credentials: Early Childhood Family Child Care Level 3 (2015), Early Childhood Educator 1 (2022), or Afterschool Direct Service Level 3. 			4		☐ Provider awarded NH Family Child Care Credential or NH Afterschool Credential(s)
	 Provider holds a minimum of one of the following NH Credentials: Early Childhood Family Child Care Level 5 (2015), Early Childhood Educator 2 (2022), or Afterschool Direct Service Level 4. 				4	☐ Provider awarded NH Family Child Care Credential or NH Afterschool Credential(s)
Standard 2: Learning Environments	Criteria	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Steps to Complete
FCCERS Pathway The Family Child Care	Provider has completed an approved FCCERS Training.	4				Provider has completed approved FCCERS Training ☐ Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND ☐ Copies of certificates provided with application
Environment Rating Scales (FCCERS) is designed to assess what children directly	 Provider has completed an approved FCCERS training Provider submits a FCCERS self-assessment. 		4			Provider has completed approved FCCERS Training ☐ Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND ☐ Copies of certificates provided with application ☐ Completed Self-Assessments for all provided

experience in their program that has a precise effect on development. The Learning Environment includes interactions children have	•	Provider has completed an approved FCCERS training FCCERS observation is conducted in the program. Observed scores must be an average of 3.5 or higher with no score less than 2.5 on the subscales: Activities and Interactions.	4	Provider has completed approved FCCERS Training Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND Copies of certificates provided with application Completed Self-Assessments provided An ERS Assessor will be assigned by BCDHSC Staff and will be in touch with you regarding potential assessment dates. The Assessor will provide the Bureau and the program with completed scores via email and at that time, the Step awarded will be determined.
with other children, staff, space, materials and equipment in their environment.	•	Provider has completed an approved FCCERS Training FCCERS observation is conducted in the program. Observed score must be 4.5 or higher with no score less than 3.5 on the subscales: Activities and Interactions.		Provider has completed Approved FCCERS Training Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND Copies of certificates provided with application Completed ERS Self-Assessments for All Classrooms provided An ERS Assessor will be assigned by BCDHSC Staff and will be in touch with you regarding potential assessment dates. The Assessor will provide the Bureau and the program with completed scores via email and at that time, the Step awarded will be determined.

^{*}Accepted NH Early Childhood Credentials include:

2015 Version: Family Child Care Level 1+, Early Childhood Teacher Level 2+, Early Childhood Master Teacher Level 1+, Early Childhood Administrator Level 1+, Early Childhood Master Professional (any endorsement)

2022 Revised Version: Early Childhood Associate Educator or higher, Early Childhood Administrator 1+, Early Childhood Professional Development Specialist (any endorsement)

Accepted NH Out-of-School Time Credentials include:

Afterschool Direct Service Level 1+, Afterschool Administrator Level 1+, Afterschool Master Professional (any endorsement)

^{**} Out-of-School Time is formerly known as "Afterschool".

Out of School Time Program Application

Instructions:

- The Staff Qualifications and Learning Environment Standards have 4 Steps of Recognition. Apply for one step. Programs must demonstrate meeting the criteria for the same selected Step from Standards 1 and 2.
- Confirm the requirements have been completed at the Step you choose.

Standard: Staff Qualifications	Criteria	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Steps to Complete
Staff Qualifications	Administrator and 20% of eligible staff* hold a current NH Out-of- School Time Credential.**	4				 □ Complete list of active staff provided □ Eligible staff identified □ Staff holding credentials are clearly indicated
This standard ensures that all group leaders, site directors and	Administrator and 40% of eligible staff* hold a current NH Out-of- School Time Credential.**		4			 □ Complete list of active staff provided □ Eligible staff identified □ Staff holding credentials are clearly indicated
site coordinators are qualified and committed to ongoing professional development.	Administrator and 60% of eligible staff* hold a current NH Out-of-School Time Credential** of which 30% hold a minimum of a current Afterschool Direct Service Level 4 Credential.			4		 □ Complete list of active staff provided □ Eligible staff identified □ Staff holding credentials are clearly indicated
	Administrator and 80% of eligible staff* hold a current NH Out-of-School Time Credential** of which 40% hold a minimum of a current Afterschool Direct Service Level 4 Credential.				4	 □ Complete list of active staff provided □ Eligible staff identified □ Staff holding credentials are clearly indicated
Standard 2: Learning Environments	Criteria	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Steps to Complete
SACERS Pathway	 Administrator and 25% of eligible staff have completed an approved SACERS training. 	4				Administrator and Staff have completed approved SACERS Training ☐ Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND ☐ Copies of certificates provided with application
The School Age Care Environment Rating Scales (SACERS) are designed to	 Administrator and 25% of eligible staff have completed an approved SACERS training Program submits SACERS self- assessments for all groups using the SACERS tool. 		A			Administrator and Staff have completed approved SACERS Training ☐ Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND ☐ Copies of certificates provided with application ☐ Completed ERS Self-Assessments for all groups provided

assess what children directly experience in their program that has a precise effect on development. The Learning Environment includes interactions	•	Administrator and 25% of eligible staff have completed an approved SACERS training Program submits SACERS self-assessments for all groups SACERS observations are completed in one third of groups. Observed scores must be an average of 3.5 or higher with no group scoring less than 2.5 on the subscales: Activities and Interactions.	4		Administrator and Staff have completed Approved SACERS Training Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND Copies of certificates provided with application Completed ERS Self-Assessments for All Classrooms provided An ERS Assessor will be assigned by BCDHSC Staff and will be in touch with you regarding potential assessment dates. The Assessor will provide the Bureau and the program with completed scores via email and at that time, the Step awarded will be determined.
children have with other children, staff, space, materials and equipment in their environment.	•	Administrator and 25% of eligible staff complete an approved SACERS training Program submits SACERS self-assessments for all groups SACERS observations are conducted in one half of groups. Observed scores must be an average of 4.5 or higher with no group scoring less than 3.5 on the subscales: Activities and Interactions.		4	Administrator and Staff have completed Approved SACERS Training Professional Development Hours reflected in NHCIS Training Transcript AND Copies of certificates provided with application Completed ERS Self-Assessments for All Classrooms provided An ERS Assessor will be assigned by BCDHSC Staff and will be in touch with you regarding potential assessment dates. The Assessor will provide the Bureau and the program with completed scores via email and at that time, the Step awarded will be determined.

^{*}For programs who serve both Early Childhood and OST populations, when determining the percentages needed to meet this criterion, count only the eligible staff who work with your school-aged population.

Accepted NH Out-of-School Time Credentials include:

Afterschool Direct Service Level 1+, Afterschool Administrator Level 1+, Afterschool Master Professional (any endorsement)

^{**}Out-of-School Time is formerly known as "Afterschool".

THE FOLLOWING SECTION MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND OWNER/APPLICANT, IF DIFFERENT THAN PROGRAM DIRECTOR.	
below, I hereby verify that:	
ave read and understand the Granite Steps for Quality	y Standards and the requirements for the application process.
nderstand that a Professional Development Specialist cords for compliance.	may visit my program to discuss the application, offer consultation, and review applicable
nderstand that submission of false or misleading informency License, billing privileges with the Department, a	mation will be considered fraudulent, which may result in revocation of my NH Child Care and my Quality Rating.
information provided as part of this application and in	all submitted information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
of Program Director:	Date:
of Owner/Applicant:	Date:
R II a recommendation of the recommendation	below, I hereby verify that: ave read and understand the Granite Steps for Quality inderstand that a Professional Development Specialist ords for compliance. Inderstand that submission of false or misleading information provided as part of this application and in of Program Director: