

IdahoSTARS is the leading expert and resource for quality child care in Idaho. We empower parents and providers to make safe, healthy, nurturing and educational child care a top priority. We support child care professionals to continually improve early care and education practices.



1,301

in-person trainings



4,157

individuals completed
online trainings



542

early childhood
professionals received
recognition for
continuing professional
development



1,484

training scholarships
awarded to 877
unique early childhood
professionals

Professional Development

IdahoSTARS offers a range of **training opportunities** for child care professionals, including in-person and online courses. The training helps professionals improve skills, increase knowledge of child development and stay current in the field of early care and education.

The IdahoSTARS **Professional Development System (PDS)** is designed to help early childhood professionals increase skills and knowledge. PDS Registry participants can apply for scholarships to further their education through training and academic coursework.

98%

of participants recognize the training
will help them do their jobs better

Academic Scholars

IdahoSTARS academic scholarships are designed to increase education, reduce turnover and improve wages within the early childhood workforce. The scholarships cover tuition for courses needed for a Child Development Associate (CDA), technical certificate, associate degree or bachelor degree in early childhood. Additional scholarships cover the costs of CDA assessment, CDA renewal and GED testing.

53 IdahoSTARS Scholars

24

bachelor degree
scholars

24

associate degree
scholars

5

CDA & technical
certificate scholars

77%

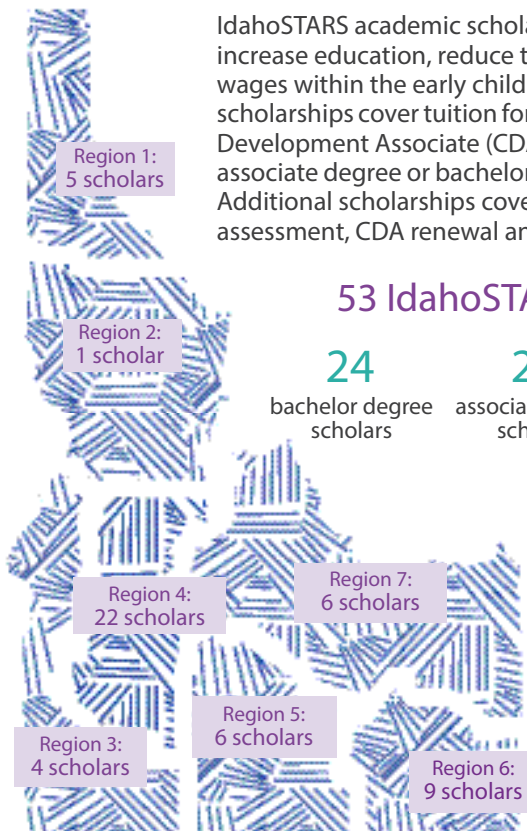
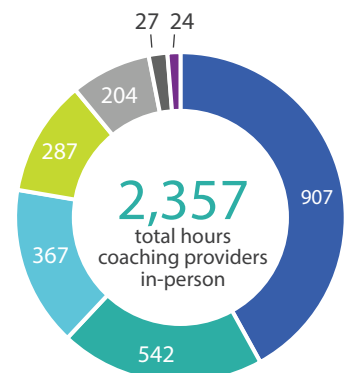
of scholars work in
child care programs
participating in ICCP

Coaching & Technical Assistance

IdahoSTARS has seven local Child Care Resource Centers across the state. Lead Consultants, Quality Consultants, Child Care Health Consultants and Resource Specialists offer support for early childhood professionals and parents. The goal is to help professionals increase the quality of their programs and to educate parents about the importance of quality care. In addition to phone conversations, IdahoSTARS consultants visit child care facilities in person to tour spaces and observe interactions with children. They provide technical assistance, focusing on seven quality domains, to support both programs and early childhood professionals with creating developmentally appropriate, inclusive and diverse classrooms where children will learn and grow.

Technical Assistance Quality Domains

- Business Practices
- Environments
- Health Safety & Wellness
- Child Development
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Inclusion & Diversity
- Partnership with Families & Communities



Improving Quality

Steps to Quality: Idaho's Quality Rating & Improvement System

Steps to Quality is a voluntary program for child care centers and home-based programs that want to improve their practices. Participants work directly with IdahoSTARS consultants to move through six steps aimed at enhancing the quality of a program. When a program is verified at Step 3, it is considered STAR-rated.

Programs enrolled in Steps to Quality are assessed using Environmental Rating Scales (ERS), which examine the many factors that contribute to positive child development: protection of health and safety, support for social and emotional development, and opportunities for intellectual stimulation. Across the 129 programs verified at a step, the overall ERS score increased from 4.95 to 4.99. Steps to Quality programs maintained an above average ERS score since the previous reporting period.



Child Care Assistance

The Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) helps low-income families access child care. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare administers the program. Child care programs can choose to participate in ICCP and help children who may be in the greatest need of quality care. To be a part of ICCP, programs must meet health, safety and training requirements. IdahoSTARS supports programs with enrolling and maintaining eligibility in ICCP.



new ICCP programs certified



ICCP programs renewed certification

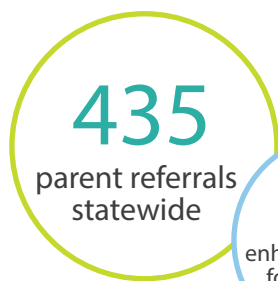


total ICCP sites statewide



IdahoSTARS Support

112 ICCP orientations



Help for Parents

It can be difficult for parents to navigate options and locate quality care that best fits the needs of their children. IdahoSTARS provides free child care referrals for parents, suggesting programs based on the type of care needed, desired days and hours for child care, and location. Enhanced referrals are available to families who require additional assistance with finding care that best meets their specialized needs.

To learn more: Click www.idahostars.org | Dial 211

*Programs that meet national standards and indicators of quality have staff engaged in professional development and receive ongoing assessment.