



Quality Improvement Network

Improving Early Learning Across Washington, DC



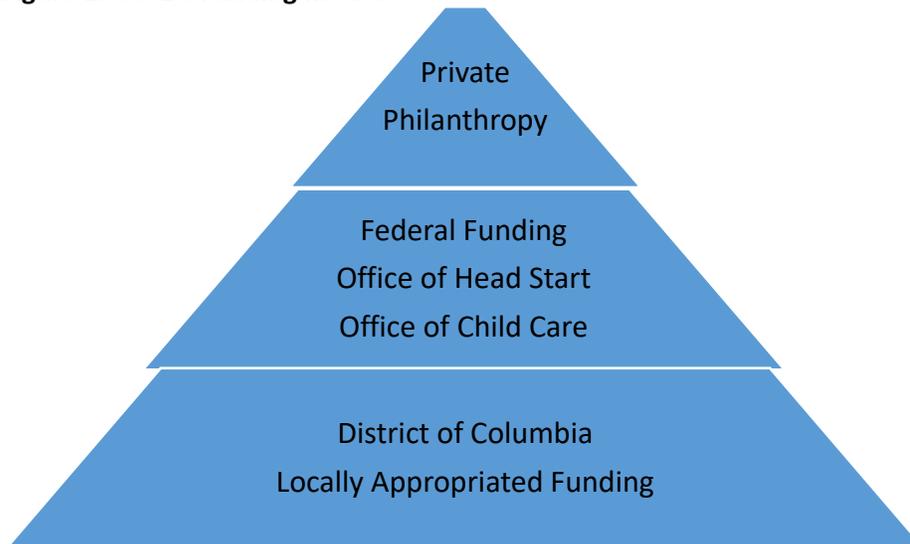
Quality Improvement Network (QIN)

The Quality Improvement Network (QIN) was developed in 2015 as a multi-year, innovative strategy to support child development facilities in enhancing services consistent with the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS). The QIN was established as part of DC’s Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant which added 200 high-quality seats for infants and toddlers through federal funding.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is leveraging local, federal and private funding to build the capacity in the community to provide quality, continuous and comprehensive services for our most vulnerable infants and toddlers and their families. OSSE provides funding and technical assistance to two agencies: United Planning Organization (UPO) and Mary’s Center to serve as hubs for 16 child development centers and 19 child development homes impacting over 600 children. Using the HSPPS and research-based best practices, these two organizations serve as QIN hubs that employ professionals to implement family engagement services, job-embedded professional development and comprehensive services and supports, such as health and nutrition, mental health and early intervention for the children and families enrolled in the child development centers and homes participating in the QIN.

Children and families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), in foster care, children experiencing homelessness and children with special needs receive the highest priority for QIN enrollment. OSSE utilizes a layered funding model for the QIN, which is described in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: OSSE’s Funding Model





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As the state education agency for DC, OSSE is charged with raising the quality of education for all DC residents. OSSE is also the lead agency for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C, DC's Strong Start Early Intervention program and B (619), the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) and the EHS-CCP grant. OSSE consults with the QIN hubs, QIN Policy Council, Governing Board, QIN Interagency Coordinating Council and private sector partners, such as the Bainum Family Foundation on progress and improvements to the QIN model. Members of the Interagency Steering Committee include representatives from DC Health, Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Health Care Finance, Department of Human Services, Child and Family Service Agency, OSSE's Health and Wellness Division and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Over the past four years, OSSE has developed a strong and effective EHS-CCP program, including a high-functioning and involved Policy Council, Governing Board and Interagency Steering Committee that help drive and advance transformation of the larger early childhood system. The major benefits of the QIN include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Children receive nurturing and responsive caregiving;
- Families have access to family engagement specialists who support them in achieving their personal, family and career goals;
- Parents are decision-makers and leaders in the program;
- Improved quality of services for EHS-eligible children served in child care providers (CCPs);
- Reimburse based on enrollment instead of attendance;
- Differential QIN reimbursement rate that reflects increased EHS standards;
- Increase incentives for CCPs to serve children experiencing homelessness (e.g., wraparound services, mental health consultation, connections to support programs);
- Continuity of care, as all families remain eligible for subsidy, regardless of a change in activity, until their child ages out of EHS;
- High-quality professional development and technical assistance to ensure all teachers attain a degree or Child Development Associate (CDA) credential;
- Teachers receive coaching and additional support to advance their learning and improve their teaching practices;
- Supplementary equipment, supplies, technology and materials, such as curriculum and online assessment; and
- Ensuring programs reach full enrollment by making families aware of the QIN through OSSE, the Interagency Steering Committee and the QIN hubs.

OSSE is committed to the QIN model and continuing to work with the Interagency Steering Committee and partners, such as the Bainum Family Foundation, to continue to provide comprehensive services to the District's youngest learners and families who are most in need.