

## 1. Introduction

We are making ~~minor~~ revisions to our AB 212 plan for ~~2016-2017~~ 2017-2018 in effort to continue to align Alameda County's Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) with AB212, now known as Quality Counts. The merger of both quality improvement initiatives would reduce duplication of services (e.g. coaching support), lessen bureaucracy (paperwork), and diminish staff time required to manage and coordinate AB212 support per agency.

On May 2008, the Alameda County Child Care Planning Council approved a plan for funding the State's CARES (AB 212) legislation. Beginning July 2010, a new State CARES Plus program was implemented; requiring modifications to our plan. In 2016-17, The Care Plus program ~~will sunset ended~~ requiring alignment of new funding streams in order to continue to individualized programs to increase retention and professional development of infant/toddler, preschool, and school age providers in the AB 212 program across the County. While the ~~significant~~ majority of the project will be administered directly by the Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council (ACECPC), we also plan to continue our collaboration with California School Age Consortium (CalSAC) on this project. With the continued cut ~~in~~ to our budget, we plan to maximize the use of existing training and ~~professional development~~ opportunities in the ~~county~~ County by ensuring programs take advantage of free or low cost training and coaching through the local Resource and Referral agencies. Additionally, Quality Counts will offer a combination of centralize and decentralize ~~centralizing and streamlining multiple trainings on the same topic~~ topics informed by evidence-based sources and tools to include, but not limited to:

- QRIS findings
- SEQUAL Workforce Findings
- ECE Workforce Registry data
- Institute of Medicine (workforce competencies)
- AB212 Participant Surveys

The three proposed changes to the AB212 Plan include:

### 1) **Streamline CLASS Coaching Payment Process**

CLASS Coaching fees will be paid in full by individual agencies directly to coach for a flat rate set by the County rather than by AB 212 paying a portion of the fee and agencies paying for the remaining balance. The benefit is to significantly reduce the exchange of funds between agencies, reduce bureaucracy, improve efficiency and use of time, as well as allow agencies to co-create CLASS services to better meet their individualized needs. Overall, AB 212 will no longer subsidize the cost of CLASS coaching and services will be paid directly by the agency.

## 2) Move and Streamline AB212 Training Allocation Funds to QRIS

Completely merge AB212 with Quality Counts (QRIS) funds- programs continue to receive funds via Quality Improvement Grant (QI) or Quality Reward (QR). In light of the proposed 2017-2018, 25% budget reduction by CDE/EESD to county Planning Council, agencies will no longer receive a training allocation unless it is a stand-alone school-age site whereby it does not benefit from QRIS Block Funds. Moreover, AB 212p will continue to issue individual stipends to teaching staff and project managers. Agencies will continue to receive similar level of funding and use these funds to support training and other professional development. This change would significantly reduce paperwork due to CalSAC and fully merge AB212 with QRIS to create a seamless and joint program. Additionally, it allows agencies to have more control and ease to strategize and decide how to best allocate funds for professional development.

## 3) Shift Project Management Duties

Project Manager (PM) focus their efforts on overall technical assistance, with a greater emphasis placed on Project Management leadership development and building their capacity to lead towards quality improvement in alignment with agencies Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). This would be a change to PMs being responsible for coordinating all agency professional development activities and for detailed grant reporting and budgeting. The new emphasis of the PM role will be on technical assistance to include:

- Manage staff application collection and agency enrollment
- Manage and track professional development hours by individual
- Manage the rating and assessment process

The overall benefit to agencies is to have greater control and choice over how involved the Project Managers are in coordinating and managing professional development training; teachers have greater flexibility to select professional development opportunities that support both their personal professional development goals and agency goals.

~~This will support in-depth practice and implementation via our 3<sup>rd</sup>-annual AB212 Conference, now called Quality Counts Conference, and continuing to offer on-site coaching component to infant, toddler, preschool and K-3 programs utilizing the CLASS Assessment and Scoring System (CLASS) assessment, as well as a CalSAC coaching model for school-age programs.~~

We have redesigned our application into a single QRIS/AB 212 application to simplify the application process for our AB 212 participants.

~~On March 4 March 8, 2016-2017, the Planning Council's Executive Committee of the Planning Council approved this the AB212 Plan for 2016-2017 2017-2018, on March 17<sup>th</sup>, our Steering Committee approved the plan.~~

School-age (stand alone) only sites will continue to receive services by AB 212 as in prior years.