Information Session

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What is EQUIP?

EQUIP (The Early Education Quality Improvement Program) is an initiative that is managed by First Up and funded by the William Penn Foundation.

EQUIP is designed to help support Philadelphia childcare programs as they move from STAR level 2 to STAR level 3.
Goals for EQUIP

- To provide individualized supports to help programs achieve goals as they continue along their quality improvement Journey
- Serve as a pipeline for centers and FCC providers as they embark on quality improvement.
- Opportunity for providers to look at the quality of their CQI plan from a holistic approach.
- Provide an opportunity for directors and teachers to connect and network.
What are the elements/benefits of EQUIP?

The Supports/Interventions:

• High level coaching for teachers and administrators
• Free professional development
• Free Program Assessments to help identify instructional, environmental and administrative strengths and to inform next steps and goals for CQI plan
• Program Improvement Funds
• Opportunities to observe live classroom practices and to hear from STAR 3 and STAR 4 program directors
• Opportunities to participate in Teacher learning Circles, Director Learning Circles and Communities of Practices
• Case Management
Coaching

- We follow a strength-based approach to coaching.
- Our highly trained coaches will not come with a mindset of “fixing” your program.
- We will use the Coaching with Powerful Interactions model by Judy Jablon.
Professional Development

- Not “one size fits all” PD
- Tailor professional development according to the program’s needs.
- Based on recommendation from coach/case management team.
- Not a sit and get format.
Career Advising

Each program will be assigned a career advisor from the PDO to support ongoing credentialing.
Program Improvement Funds

- Each program will be allotted a small stipend to support quality improvement and sustain this improvement.
- These funds will help to purchase materials based on the programs baseline ERS assessments and program needs.
Teacher/Director Visits to High Quality Programs

- Teachers will have opportunities to view videos or visit high quality programs (mentor sites), observe classrooms, and be able to debrief with teachers and their coach.

- Programs will receive funds for substitutes in order to facilitate visits to high quality classrooms or centers.
Free Program Assessments to help identify instructional, environmental and administrative strengths and to inform next steps and goals for CQI plan

Assessments used:

ERS - The Environmental Rating Scale.

PAS - The Program Administration Scale.

BAS - The Business Administration Scale for Family Child Care.
Communities of Practice

Communities of Practice are groups of educators who share a passion for their work and wish to learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. The EQUIP project will help programs to facilitate these.
Case Management

- The coaches will work with the program’s Quality Coach, any other partner that is providing quality improvement support to the program.

- They will work together to create a service plan that will include the program’s goals for this project.