



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Early Childhood Services Bureau

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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

Date: August 11, 2014
To: Licensed Family, Group, and Center programs
From: Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief
Re: Apply for STARS!

We are excited to announce that STARS is accepting applications! Applications are available at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare>. Applications can be mailed, emailed, or faxed in. Applications will be reviewed as received, and depending on the area and openings within that area, the program will either be accepted if eligible or placed on a waiting list if eligible.

Why would I choose to participate in STARS?

- Free STARS courses through Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies as well as ChildCareTraining.org
- Access to free coaching and technical assistance for your program
- STAR level incentives and Best Beginnings Subsidy percent bonus increases. To see the incentive structure, go to <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/bestbeginnings/bestbeginningsstarstoquality.shtml#Incentives>
- Opportunity to attend the Annual STARS conference
- Prepare your program for future policies and business opportunities

What will STARS do for your program and the children and families you serve?

- Provide continuing educational opportunities for you and your staff
- Workforce support through the Montana Career Path
- Increase professionalism across the Early Childhood field in MT
- Opportunities to enhance your early childhood learning environment, both indoors and outdoors
- Resources for family involvement in your program
- Opportunities to reach out and collaborate within the community

For more information about STARS, you can contact your Child Care Resource and Referral Agency or go to www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov.