

Step Up to Quality Bonus Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the timeline for the Step Up to Quality Bonus application and payment?

The Step Up to Quality Bonus Survey must be submitted by **September 30, 2023**. Payments will be disbursed to programs within 7 to 8 weeks.

2. What are the eligibility requirements of the Step Up to Quality Bonus?

To be eligible for the Step Up to Quality Bonus, programs must be participating in Nebraska's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Step Up to Quality and have been rated a Step 2, 3, 4, or 5 as of September 15, 2023. They must also complete the emailed Step Up to Quality Bonus Survey, which serves as an application to receive funding.

3. My program was rated AFTER September 15, 2023. Am I eligible?

The Step Up to Quality Bonus is available to programs that have been rated a Step 2, 3, 4, or 5 as of September 15, 2023. If your program was rated after September 15, 2023, you are not eligible for funding.

4. My program was rated prior to September 15, 2023, but we lost our rating also prior to September 15. Am I eligible?

The Step Up to Quality Bonus is available to programs rated a Step 2, 3, 4, or 5 as of September 15, 2023. If your program was previously rated but is no longer rated one of these steps as of September 15, 2023, you are not eligible for funding.

5. How can I complete the Step Up to Quality Bonus Survey?

Eligible providers will receive a letter and an email with instructions and a link to the Step Up to Quality Bonus Survey, which acts as the application for funding. The Survey should be completed no later than September 30, 2023. Please note: Providers should not share the survey link.

6. What if I fail to submit the Step Up to Quality Bonus Survey by the deadline?

If you do not complete the Step Up to Quality Bonus Survey by September 30, 2023, you will not be eligible to receive funding.

7. Will I be able to make changes to my Survey application after it's submitted?

No. Once a survey has been submitted an applicant will not be able to make any edits.

8. How am I allowed to use the funds I receive for my program?

The Step Up to Quality Bonus is a one-time bonus to increase the support for those who are committed to continuous quality improvement and assist in the advancement to the next level of quality. These funds are

intended to support the past work providers have put into building the quality of their program. There are no restrictions on the way these funds can be spent.

9. Will I be able to apply for additional grants under this program in the future?

No. This is a one-time payment.

10. As a recipient of the Step Up to Quality Bonus, how long is my obligation to remain open?

Programs are not obligated to remain open or operational for any minimum amount of time. Programs must be open at the time of funding.

11. How are funding amounts determined?

Funding is determined based on the programs license type and Step rating. Funding may range from \$2,000 to \$14,000 per program.

12. I have read the FAQ in its entirety, but I have additional questions regarding the Step Up to Quality Bonus program. What is the best way to get questions answered?

Still have questions? Email DHHS.ccsubsidy@nebrasksa.gov with your name, phone number, license number (if applicable) and question(s).