



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF ECONOMIC & HOUSING STABILITY

BUREAU OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT & HEAD START COLLABORATION

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**Deadline Extended for Licensed Plus and Accredited Programs due to Expire in 2023 or 2024
to Enroll in Granite Steps for Quality**

June 16, 2022

Dear Licensed Plus and Accredited Program Providers,

Over the past five months, the Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration (BCHDSC) has encountered a number of unforeseen circumstances that have caused delays and challenges in the implementation of Granite Steps for Quality (GSQ). As a result, **current Licensed Plus (LP) or Accredited programs with an expiration date of 2023 or 2024 may now enroll in GSQ through December 31, 2023.**

What This Means for Current LP or Accredited Programs with an Expiration Date in 2023 or 2024

- Licensed Plus programs will continue to receive 5% (LP) of their monthly billing for children served in the NH Child Care Scholarship Program (NH CCSP) through regular web billing *until they apply for and receive a GSQ Quality Step or December 31, 2023, whichever comes first.*
- Accredited programs will continue to receive 10% of their monthly billing for children served in the NH CCSP through regular web billing *until they apply for and receive a GSQ Quality Step or December 31, 2023, whichever comes first, as long as their accreditation status is active at that time.*
- Only Head Start/Early Head Start center based programs providing child care in the non-Head Start portion of the day are affected by this deadline extension.
- Programs will not be eligible for GSQ quarterly or annual quality bonuses until they apply for and receive a GSQ Quality Step designation.
- **As of January 1, 2024, no quality payments will be allocated for programs not enrolled in GSQ.**

Before Making Your Decision

We understand that there are many circumstances to consider in deciding when to enroll in GSQ. Help is available! For more information or to discuss your options, please reach out to the following resources:

- Early childhood programs: Child Care Aware of NH: Phone: 1-855-393-1731 or 603-578-1386; website: [Contact - Child Care Aware of NH \(nh-connections.org\)](https://www.nh-connections.org)
- Out-of-school time programs: Contact Across NH: Phone: 603-206-6800; Email: acrossnh@seresc.net

Lastly, we acknowledge and sincerely appreciate those of you who enroll in GSQ by the original December 31, 2022 GSQ enrollment deadline. Therefore, all programs in GSQ by December 31, 2022 will receive a one-time bonus as follows: \$500 for each open classroom for Early Childhood programs; and/or \$500 for each group in out-of-school time programs. Additional information on enrollment bonuses will be provided by Friday, June 24th in our GSQ FAQs at [Granite Steps for Quality - Child Care Aware of NH \(nh-connections.org\)](https://www.nh-connections.org).

If you have questions about this notice, please feel free to email us at NHGSQ@dhhs.nh.gov.

Best,

Debra Nelson, Bureau Chief