



## Gold Seal Designation Process for Child Care Providers

To be recognized as a Gold Seal Quality Care Program provider, the child care provider shall:

- Review the list of approved [Accrediting Agencies](#).
- Find an agency that meets the needs of your facility. Review the agency's accreditation requirements and follow their procedures for accreditation.
- Once a provider has achieved accreditation from an approved accrediting agency, the provider must submit the *Gold Seal Quality Care Provider Application* to [goldsealproviderapps@thechildrensforum.com](mailto:goldsealproviderapps@thechildrensforum.com).

Upon review and verification of the application, the Division of Early Learning (DEL) will award a Gold Seal Certificate to the child care provider recognizing their achievement. The certificate is mailed directly to the child care provider, typically within three weeks of submission of application.

Proof of the Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation may be required for participation in the [Voluntary Prekindergarten Program](#) and for increased reimbursement payment for [School Readiness](#) providers.

Participation in Gold Seal program is voluntary and is available to all provider types that meet the definition of child care with the exception of certain license-exempt school-age programs.

Typically, it takes nine months to two years to complete the process. This depends on how many of the accrediting standards the provider has already achieved.

There is no fee charged for the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, however, most accrediting agencies charge an application fee and a validation fee as part of their accreditation process. Contact the accrediting agency directly for more information about fees.

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For additional information about the Gold Seal Quality Care Program:

Telephone: 1-888-352-4453

Email: [goldsealproviderapps@thechildrensforum.com](mailto:goldsealproviderapps@thechildrensforum.com)