



## Gold Seal Quality Care Frequently Asked Questions

### **Does a child care provider have to be licensed to qualify for the Gold Seal Quality Care Program?**

Any legally operating child care facility is eligible to achieve Gold Seal Quality Care Program status if it is accredited by one of the Department's approved Gold Seal Quality Care Program Accrediting Agencies. Although the department doesn't require that a provider be licensed in order to participate, some accrediting agencies may require licensure as part of their accrediting process. For example, the National Association for Family Child Care requires a family child care home to be licensed in order to become accredited. Providers that are not licensed must agree, by submission of the Gold Seal Provider application, to periodic inspections conducted by licensing authority.

### **What is the cost associated with becoming a Gold Seal Quality Care Program provider?**

The Department does not charge a fee for the Gold Seal Quality Care Program; however, the accrediting association does charge an application fee and a validation fee as part of their accreditation process. For more information on accreditation fees and other costs, please contact the accrediting agency directly.

### **What are the steps to become accredited?**

For Gold Seal purposes a provider must select an accrediting association recognized for the Gold Seal Quality Care Program. A list of recognized Gold Seal Accrediting Associations can be found [here](#). It is recommended for a provider to do research on the accrediting associations to determine which one would be the best fit for their program. The accreditation process typically can take up to a year.

### **Can a child care provider be accredited by more than one of the approved Gold Seal Quality Care Program accrediting associations?**

Yes. However, accreditation by more than one of the approved Gold Seal Quality Care Program accrediting agencies does not affect the Gold Seal Quality Care Program reimbursement rate or the tax benefit. The Child Care Program Office only reports one accreditation per child care provider.

### **How long does it take to receive a Gold Seal Quality Care certificate once the Gold Seal Quality Care Provider application has been submitted?**

It usually takes about three weeks to process a Gold Quality Care Program application request.

### **Who issues the tax exemptions for Gold Seal designated providers?**

The Department of Revenue issues the exemption certificates for sales tax. This exemption is for certain educational materials primarily items such as: books, crayons, educational toys, glue, paint, paper, unique craft items and scissors. The application for a Tax Exemption for Gold Seal Quality Care Child Care Facilities can be found [here](#).

For the property tax exemption, please contact your local property appraiser office or visit: [http://floridarevenue.com/Pages/forms\\_index.aspx#adval](http://floridarevenue.com/Pages/forms_index.aspx#adval)

**For additional information about the Gold Seal Quality Care Program:**

**Telephone:** 1-888-352-4453

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