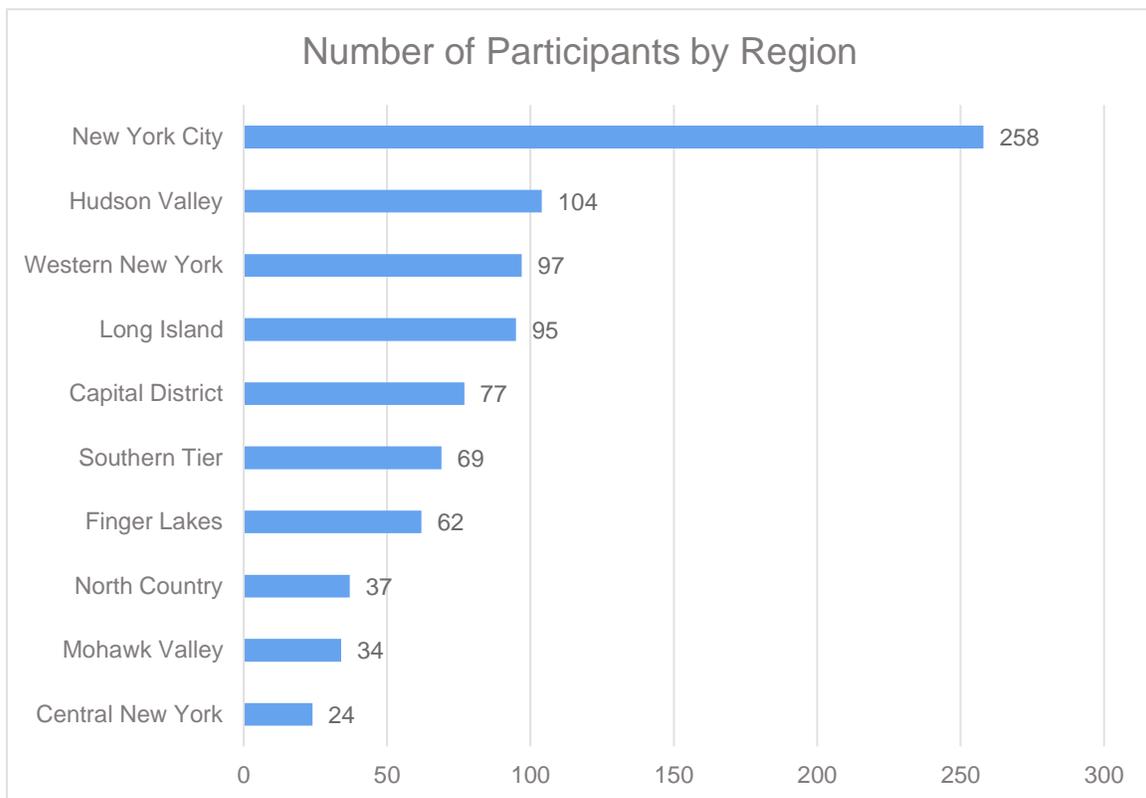


QUALITYstarsNY ECAC Brief

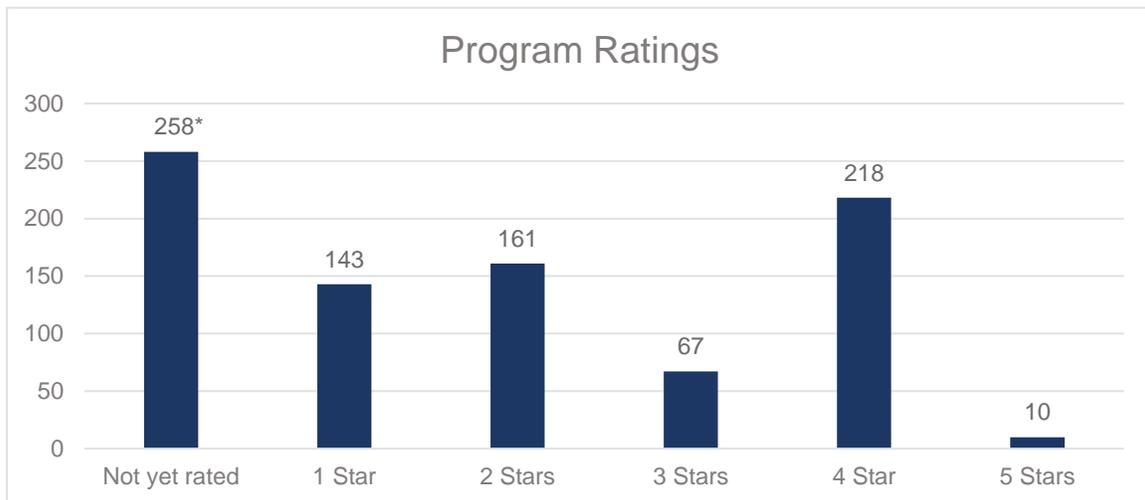
December 2021

857 Programs currently participating in QUALITYstarsNY	Program Type	Number of Participating Programs	Number of Children Served
	Center-based	601	51,053
	Family/Group Family Child Care	198	2,290
	School-based	58	3,060
	Total	857	56,403



NYC: **258** | Rest of State: **599**





Program Ratings & Pending ERS Assessments

Currently, *258 programs have not yet received their Active Rating due to the suspension of the Environmental Rating Scale assessment in the QUALITYstarsNY rating process since the start of the pandemic. Programs that are Provisionally Rated 3-5 Stars qualify for an Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) assessment conducted by QUALITYstarsNY's independent assessment team and the results are used to calculate the program's Active Rating. Due to COVID-19, ERS observations have been suspended since March of 2020, preventing many programs who have joined QUALITYstarsNY since early 2020 from earning their final Active Rating.

QUALITYstarsNY will be resuming ERS observations beginning in early 2022 and these programs will receive their final Active Rating in the coming months. In the meantime, these programs have used the results of their Provisional Rating to partner with their Quality Improvement Specialist to build a Quality Improvement Plan and achieve their goals.

Program Spotlights

ABC Center

Success & Rippling Quality Improvement through Start with Stars

ABC Center* opened a new early childhood program in 2020, joining Start with Stars, an initiative designed to provide intensive support to programs just starting out or those experiencing challenges with meeting licensing requirements. This new program was the third site opened and operated by program Director, Jane—all three programs offer Special Education for preschool-aged children. ABC Center's two sister sites already participated in QUALITYstarsNY and were rated as 1-Star programs for their first rating in 2018. By participating in Start with Stars, the new program was able to purchase developmentally appropriate materials to create a high quality learning environment before the children even walked through the door. Jane also developed a knowledge of the QUALITYstarsNY Standards from her first two site's participation, which she was able to use as a roadmap to create best

practices and policies that would set the new program up for success from the beginning.

**QUALITYstarsNY ratings are not currently public, therefore the program and director names for these spotlights have been changed for this brief.*

After participating in Start with Stars for six months, ABC Center successfully transitioned into QUALITYstarsNY in the summer of 2021 to earn their first rating. The program's two sister sites completed the re-rating process for the first time shortly after ABC Center. Jane's experience establishing her new program in Start with Stars, combined with three years of continuous quality improvement work with her first two sites in QUALITYstarsNY, gave her the foundation she needed to earn a high quality rating. In 2021, all three sites, including ABC Center, earned a Provisional Rating of 3 Stars.

As part of the program's Quality Improvement Plan in QUALITYstarsNY, ABC Center has completed goals around purchasing, training, and implementing a curriculum, as well as training and utilization of the ERS tool to complete an internal self-assessment and inform enhancements to their classroom learning environment.

Through her work in QUALITYstarsNY and Start with Stars, Jane has also come to value the importance of providing high quality professional development for teachers and administrators. She updated her staff onboarding policies to make documentation of professional development, qualifications, and experience in The Aspire Registry a key component of staff expectations. ABC Center's Quality Improvement Specialist (QI Specialist) has even connected other directors with Jane so they could learn from her success with integrating professional development documentation in Aspire into staff policies and expectations.

ABC Family Child Care

The Steady Progress of Continuous Quality Improvement

ABC Family Child Care began participating in QUALITYstarsNY with the field test in 2010. They have now been through three rating cycles. Since their initial 2-Star rating, they have increased a Star with each rating to most recently earn a high quality rating of 4 Stars in 2019.

"When I first started working with this provider, she had a large room with a large table and shelves of coloring and activity books," said their QI Specialist, Karin Sperb. "Now in the same space, she has developed distinct learning centers with open-ended activities. She is an amazing provider."

ABC Family Child Care Owner/Director Lynn approached her work with QUALITYstarsNY with an openness to learn and eagerness to create a higher quality program. Between her first and second ratings, Lynn devoted time to adopting and documenting new high quality policies and practices based on the QUALITYstarsNY Standards.

"Since the field test, Lynn has become more confident in herself and her program," said QI Specialist Karin Sperb. Through participating in learning

communities with other QUALITYstarsNY providers and becoming active in her local early childhood community, Lynn came to truly value herself as an early childhood professional, and implemented policies to reflect this professionalism. For example, she established payment policies for child absences and began allocating herself vacation time, which she had not done in the past.

Lynn has pursued an array of continuous quality improvement work, including training on The Pyramid Model and earning her Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. Now she is discussing her plan to return to school to earn her degree in early childhood education, with her QI Specialist.

Lynn also worked with her husband to transform their backyard area into an engaging learning space—creating a mud play area and even a maze for the children. Between her second and third ratings, Lynn earned the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accreditation, demonstrating her profound growth over the last 10 years.

During the pandemic, ABC Family Child Care remained open to serve first responders and used the opportunity to continue to learn and grow. As Lynn continues to improve her program and deepen her practice, her QI Specialist is excited to support her every step of the way and reflect on her success when she earns her fourth rating next year.