



Provider Cost of Quality Calculator Updates

February 2024

Beginning on February 28, 2024, the *Provider Cost of Quality Calculator* (PCQC) will include updated values for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) reimbursement rates, optional center staff salaries, minimum wages for center substitutes and family child care home assistants, and nonpersonnel values.

What's Changing?

PCQC will receive four updates:

1. The first update will relate to **CACFP reimbursement rates**. If child care programs participate in CACFP, they receive reimbursement for meals served. CACFP rates change annually and the update reflects the most current rates.
2. The second update will relate to **center staff salary options**. PCQC provides optional salaries from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for program staff (for example, the center director) and teaching staff. The updated values reflect the most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics update for each state and territory.
3. The third update will relate to the **minimum wage for center substitutes and family child care home assistants**. PCQC includes a default minimum wage for these positions. The PCQC update reflects updates to states' and territories' minimum wages.
4. The fourth update will relate to **nonpersonnel default values**. PCQC includes default values for most nonpersonnel expenses. The updates adjust for inflation or align with other sources of data. Additional information will be included in the *PCQC User Guide*.

How Will the Updates Affect My Existing Scenarios?

1. **CACFP reimbursement rates**—PCQC will update CACFP reimbursement rates in all existing scenarios. This means that the revenue statement in your saved and draft scenarios will reflect higher CACFP reimbursement rates, resulting in increased revenue and net revenue.
2. **Center staff salary options**—This update won't affect your existing scenarios.
3. **Minimum wage for center substitutes and family child care home assistants**—PCQC will apply the updated wages for these two positions to new scenarios you create. The updates will not affect existing scenarios. You can reference updated minimum wages on the [U.S. Department of Labor's "Consolidated Minimum Wage Table"](#) if you'd like to update your state or territory's minimum wage in existing scenarios.
4. **Nonpersonnel default values**—You'll see updated nonpersonnel default values in new scenarios you create. The updates will not affect existing scenarios.

What Do I Need to Do?

If you anticipate needing to reference scenarios with the **CACFP reimbursement rates** currently included in PCQC, we recommend saving these scenarios to your device. There are two ways to save scenarios to your device:

1. Download an Excel file.
 - a. On the dashboard, click **“Download.”**
 - b. If you’re in your scenario, click **“Save,”** then click **“Print Preview”** (in the green ribbon), and finally click **“Export as Excel.”**
2. Save a PDF.
 - a. On the dashboard, click **“Print Document.”**
 - b. If you’re in your scenario, click **“Save,”** then click **“Print Preview”** (in the green ribbon), select the quality levels you want to save, click **“Print Selected Quality Levels,”** and finally (under “Destination”) click **“Save as PDF.”**

Who Can I Contact with Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance at QualityAssuranceCenter@ecetta.info.

December 2023

Beginning on December 21, 2023, the *Provider Cost of Quality Calculator* (PCQC) will allow you to designate classrooms as part time or full time. Per teaching staff costs will also slightly change.

What's Changing?

PCQC will receive two updates:

1. The first update will relate to **part-time classroom functionality**. PCQC's "Classroom Information" tab will have a new section called "Type of Classroom" where you can designate whether each classroom is full time or part time. You will be able to choose from four classroom types, and PCQC will apply the following percentages of time children spend in each type of classroom:
 - a. **Full time** = 100%
 - b. **School day + summer** = 75%
 - c. **Afterschool + summer** = 60%
 - d. **School day for school year** = 40%
2. The second update will relate to **per teaching staff costs**. PCQC will slightly change how it calculates per teaching staff costs. The updated version of PCQC will factor *additional* assistant teachers into these costs. These are the assistant teachers whom PCQC adds when you enter "percent additional teaching staff time." (The current version of PCQC includes only lead teachers and required assistant teachers when calculating per teaching staff costs.) This means per teaching staff costs will slightly increase if your scenario includes additional teaching staff time.

How Will the Updates Affect My Existing Scenarios?

PCQC will apply both updates to all scenarios on your dashboard, including saved and draft versions:

1. **Part-time classroom functionality**—PCQC will designate each classroom in scenarios created before December 21, 2023 as full time. This update, on its own, won't affect your saved scenarios.
3. **Per teaching staff costs**—These costs will slightly increase in your existing scenarios if those scenarios include additional assistant teachers.

When you include the percentage of additional teaching staff time (within the "Personnel Costs" tab under "Per Teaching Staff Costs"), PCQC will include additional assistant teachers.

What Do I Need to Do?

If you anticipate needing to reference scenarios with the *current* per teaching staff costs, the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance recommends saving these scenarios to your device. There are two ways to save scenarios to your device:

1. Download an Excel file.
 - a. On the dashboard, click “**Download.**”
 - b. If you’re in your scenario, click “**Save,**” then click “**Print Preview**” (in the green ribbon), and finally click “**Export as Excel.**”
4. Save a PDF.
 - a. On the dashboard, click “**Print Document.**”
 - b. If you’re in your scenario, click “**Save,**” then click “**Print Preview**” (in the green ribbon), select the quality levels you want to save, click “**Print Selected Quality Levels,**” and finally (under “Destination”) click “**Save as PDF.**”