



Building for Our Future: Career Ladder Bonus Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. *How do I apply for the bonus?*

You may apply for the Career Ladder Bonus using the DSS Provider Portal- Participation Application for Career Ladder Bonus found here: [Provider Portal \(sc.gov\)](#)

2. *How do I qualify for the bonus?*

In order to qualify for the bonus, you must have:

- verified employment at a child care program enrolled in ABC Quality.
- a current Career Level in SC Endeavors Registry. [Click here for a how-to guide.](#)
- received a SCEIS vendor number via the [SCEIS portal](#). [Click here for instructions.](#)
- not received a career level bonus in prior pilots.

3. *How much is the bonus?*

The career ladder bonus amount is \$150. If the portal bonus application is received prior to September 16, 2022 an additional \$50 early bird bonus will be added for a total of \$200.

4. *Why am I unable to submit my application?*

Individuals are denied for the following reasons:

- You are employed at a program that is not enrolled in ABC Quality.
- You do not have a Career Level in SC Endeavors Registry. Please allow up to one week after receiving your Career Level in the Registry for the level to sync with the Provider Portal.
- You do not have a SCEIS vendor number.
- You already received a bonus for achieving your Career Level.

5. *How long will it take to receive my bonus?*

Once you submit your application you will be taken to a confirmation screen with an Application Reference number. You will also receive this via email. Use this number to inquire about your application while it is being processed. Once your application has been approved for payment, you will receive a notification email. After your application has been approved, please allow 4-6 weeks to receive your bonus.

6. *Is there a deadline to apply for the bonus?*

Currently there is no deadline to apply for the bonus.

7. *Will this be a reoccurring bonus?*

There will be more opportunities for additional bonuses in the future.

8. *How will I get paid if I didn't request direct deposit?*

A check with the award is mailed to the address on file with SCEIS.

9. *How long does it take to receive my SCEIS vendor number?*

It can take anywhere from 72 hours to 2 weeks to receive your SCEIS vendor number.

10. *Do I have to pay taxes on the bonus?*

If you receive \$600 or more from the State of South Carolina within a calendar year, you will receive a 1099 form from the Comptroller General. Use that form to account for income when filing your taxes.

11. *Who do I contact if I have any questions?*

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Brianna Smith or Tameka Simpson by phone at 803-898-2772 or email at careerlevel@dss.sc.gov