

Quality Improvement Awards for *Rising Stars for ME* Star Movement



In partnership with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services (DHHS, OCFS), **Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network** (MRTQ PDN) offered **Quality Improvement Awards** to Maine early childhood and out-of-school time programs to support and reward early childhood and out-of-school time programs **to increase their Star rating in *Rising Stars for ME***. Participating programs submitted a **Quality Improvement Plan** aligned with meeting the Standards for the next Star level in *Rising Stars for ME*. Once approved by MRTQ PDN staff, programs received **funding** to support the work needed in their plan and **technical assistance** from MRTQ PDN Quality Specialists. Programs that successfully moved up a Star rating were awarded a final cash payment to reward their accomplishment.



Total funding allocated for program quality improvement:

\$1,416,759.46

149 total programs received QIA:
74 Family Child Care programs
75 Center-based programs

149

As a result, **4,466** children, based on the licensed capacity of programs reached, are now benefiting from QIA

4,466

"These award funds were such a blessing and dream enabler. We have dreamed of expanding our space since we first opened. We are almost finished renovating a space to be our main physical activity space, complete with a dance/yoga studio, bathroom, and kitchenette."



STAR MOVEMENT

74

Increased to Star 3

35

Increased to Star 4

6

Increased to Star 5

6

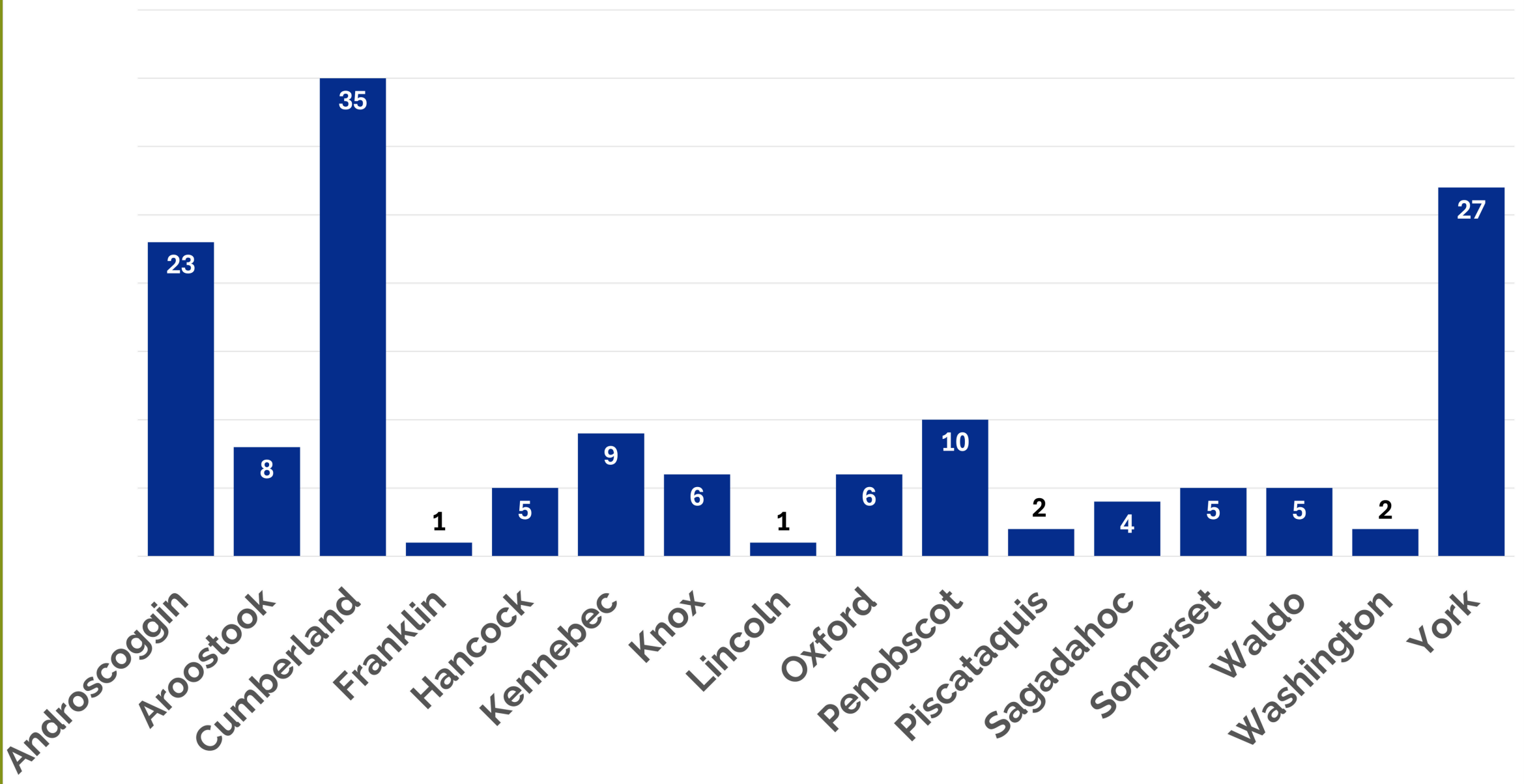
Maintained Star 5

121

Total star movement

Quality Initiative Awards reached all sixteen counties

QIA Participant Program Location



Recommendation: quality improvement awards that combine financial incentive with technical assistance can be an effective approach to increase the number of programs moving from a Star 2 to Star 3 across the state.