

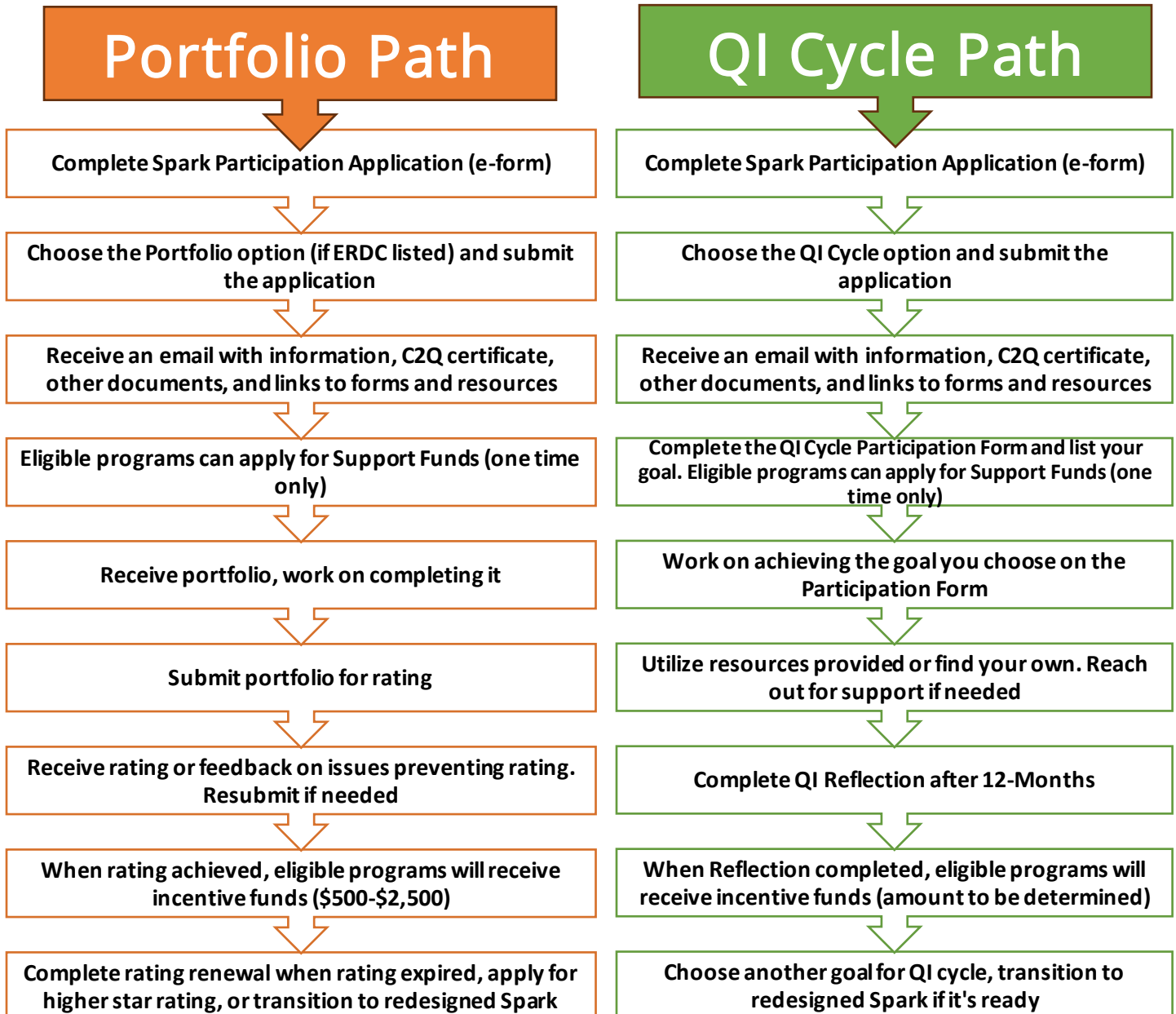
# Spark Participation Pathways During Spark Redesign

Spark redesign began in 2023 and during this redesign process there are 2 different participation pathways that programs can choose.

1. **Portfolio Path:** Complete a portfolio to achieve a rating (must be listed with ERDC to do this).
2. **QI Cycle Path:** Complete a 12-month Quality Improvement Cycle – choose and work on a goal of choice. (Can be listed with ERDC or not).

Both options enable programs to:

- Participate in Spark and receive the Commitment to Quality (C2Q) designation.
- Receive Spark Support Funds (\$1,000 minimum. Certain publicly funded programs, such as Head Start, are not eligible).
- Have a framework to reflect on their program and make quality improvements.
- Programs will receive incentive funds after achievement of rating or completion of QI Cycle. (\$ varies, Certain publicly funded programs, such as Head Start, are not eligible).



## What's the difference?

**Portfolio Path:** Enables achievement of Star Rating. The Star Rating is a recognition of quality and allows programs to receive Spark-rated ERDC monthly incentive payment. (Which is why ERDC listing is required).

**QI Cycle:** Guides programs in quality improvement efforts by providing a framework for goal setting, resources, and coaching. The redesigned Spark system may include a goal setting cycle framework, participation will help identify issues and gather feedback before redesigned Spark is rolled out.

## What about programs already in Spark?

- Star ratings will not be taken away if programs are not listed with ERDC.
- ERDC listing is required to submit a portfolio for the first time or for a higher rating.
- If a program's rating is expired, programs can complete a Spark Program Update Report (SPUR) to receive an updated certificate and information on completing a rating renewal. Program's do not need to be ERDC listed to renew. \$200 will be awarded after completion of a rating renewal.
- Programs that have already achieved a star-rating can choose to complete a 12-month QI cycle and will receive incentive funds after completion (*amount to be determined*).

To find out more about participation options and the Spark Redesign progress:

[oregonspark.org](https://oregonspark.org)

Spark Helpline: [qrishelp@wou.edu](mailto:qrishelp@wou.edu) or (877) 768-8290

For more information about becoming ERDC listed:

<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/assistance/CHILD-CARE/pages/provider-listing.aspx>

