

Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

May 20, 2021



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**

BRIGHT FROM THE START

DECAL May 20 Board Meeting: Webinar 101

For Board Members:

- Board meeting is audio only.
- You can mute and unmute yourselves.
- Report any sound or technology issues using the chat box, and a DECAL staff member will assist you.

For General Public:

- You will remain muted.
- The agenda does not include a Q&A session; this is standard for board meetings.
- The agenda does include a public comment period. Public may type comments in the chat box. Public comments will be shared with the Board.
- Minutes will be posted at a later date. Board Summary will be posted within seven business days.
- PowerPoint presentation will also be posted.

Helpful Hints from Shawnell Johnson.



Board Meeting Welcome

Susan Harper, Board Chair



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Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve 05-20-21 agenda
- Approve 02-18-21 minutes



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Commissioner's Updates

Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner



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Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- \$144 million in emergency funding through CCDBG to help states provide child care assistance to frontline workers and to stabilize the child care market.
- \$122 million for STABLE payments to licensed child care providers.
- \$19 million for CAPS emergency policy payments.
- \$3 million for the CAPS Essential Services Workforce priority group.



Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act

- \$403 million for DECAL to build upon initiatives from the CARES Act.
- Relief to families paying for child care and assistance to child care providers to support the cost of providing care and remaining open.
- CAPS child care supplement
- POWER: Providing Our Workforce Essential Recognition
- STABLE: Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities
- School Age Grants



American Rescue Plan Act

- \$1.57 billion for DECAL to continue to support Georgia's early childhood and education system.
- \$604 million for child care assistance activities.
- \$968 million for a child care stabilization program.



Georgia's Pre-K Teacher of the Year Finalists

Public Schools



Teresa Swaim
West Jackson Elementary
Jackson County



Stephanie Curington
Kings Chapel Elementary
Houston County



Lisa West
Crisp County Pre-K
Crisp County



Georgia's Pre-K Teacher of the Year Finalists

Child Care Programs



Shelley Hoster
1st Creative Learning Center #2
Gwinnett County



Marie Thebaud
Kiddie Kottage Academy
Cobb County



LaNita Carey
Jackson Creek Academy
Gwinnett County



Georgia's Pre-K Teacher of the Year

- Early September
 - Virtual Interview
 - One week of completed lesson plans submitted for review
 - Small group and large group instruction observed and scored
- Late September/Early October
 - 2 Winners –1 public school/1 private childcare center announced virtually
 - \$3000 award per winner; \$3000 for classroom makeover; \$500 to school for substitutes and travel



Early Educator of the Year Program *NEW!*

- Early Educators of the Year will serve as an ambassador for early childhood education
- Winners will be chosen from three divisions
 - Infant Teacher (birth-18 months)
 - Toddler Teacher (15-36 months)
 - Preschool Teacher (36-48 months)
- Must meet the following criteria
 - Credentialed lead teacher of the age-specific classroom
 - A minimum of 3 years as a lead teacher
 - Plan to continue as lead teacher for the next year
 - Work in a 2 or 3-star Quality Rated center that is in good standing with DECAL



DECAL Scholar of the Year Program *NEW!*

- To celebrate the **20th anniversary** of DECAL Scholars, 2 DECAL Scholars of the Year will be identified:
 - One attending a four-year college or university
 - One attending a technical college
- Recipients must meet the following criteria:
 - Current participant in the Scholarships program
 - Currently working in a licensed program, exempt Head Start or DOD, or Georgia's Pre-K in a public school
 - Have a minimum of two years attendance at a four-year college or university OR minimum of one year attendance at a technical college
 - Minimum GPA of 3.0



Finance, Legislation, & Administration Updates

Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance & Administration



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FY 2021 Budget Comparison Quarter 3

Data as of March 31	Budget	Expenditures*	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
BY PROGRAMS				
Child Care Services	\$555,649,162	\$339,181,689	\$216,467,472	39%
Nutrition Services	\$169,907,631	\$103,526,636	\$66,380,995	39%
Pre-K + (HS)	\$378,919,403	\$290,643,504	\$88,275,899	23%
Quality Initiatives	\$59,370,850	\$40,331,746	\$19,039,104	32%
Total Funds	\$1,163,847,046	\$773,683,575	\$390,163,470	34%

BY FUND SOURCES				
State General	\$54,555,132	\$40,253,743	\$14,301,389	26%
State Lottery	\$378,701,910	\$290,515,226	\$88,186,684	23%
Federal	\$730,085,556	\$442,601,994	\$287,483,561	39%
Other	\$504,448	312,612	\$191,836	38%
Total Funds	\$1,163,847,046	\$773,683,575	\$390,163,470	34%

* Includes encumbrances

Finance Update

Q3 SFY 2021



FY 2022 Appropriations

	FY 2022 Governor's Recommendation	FY 2022 Appropriation	Change
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BY PROGRAMS

Child Care Services	\$320,518,848	\$324,018,848	\$3,500,000
Nutrition Services	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	\$0
Pre-K + (HS)	\$380,904,868	\$382,734,866	\$1,829,998
Quality Initiatives	\$57,827,234	\$57,827,234	\$0
Total Funds	\$907,250,950	\$912,580,948	\$5,329,998

BY FUND SOURCES

State General	\$54,226,235	\$57,726,235	\$3,500,000
State Lottery	\$380,729,868	\$382,559,866	\$1,829,998
Federal	\$472,269,847	\$471,959,847	(\$310,000)
Other	\$25,000	\$335,000	\$310,000
Total Funds	\$907,250,950	\$912,580,948	\$5,329,998

SFY 2022 Budget



Child Care Services Program

State General Funds Change			
Governor's Recommendation	FY 2022 Appropriation	Increase	% Change
\$54,226,235	\$57,726,235	\$3,500,000	6%

Increase

- Increase funds for the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program to add 625 slots to aid eligible families for the cost of childcare = \$3,500,000

SFY 2022 Changes



Pre-K Program

State Lottery Funds Change

Governor's Recommendation	FY 2022 Appropriation	Increase	% Change
\$380,729,868	\$382,559,866	\$1,829,998	0.5%

Increase

- Increase funds for Pre-K classroom operations by 2.5% = \$1,748,849
- Increase funds for one Pre-K specialist position that was eliminated in FY2021 = \$81,149

SFY 2022 Changes



Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports Updates

Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports



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POWER Payments

Through funds allocated from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, Georgia's early learning workforce will receive a one-time \$1,000 supplemental payment.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be employed by an eligible program on or before April 5, 2021 and employed when the application opens on May 17, 2021
- Must work on-site at an eligible program for at least 20 hours per week

Eligible Programs

- Georgia child care programs licensed by DECAL or DOD
- Exempt Georgia Head Start or Early Head Start programs
- Georgia's Pre-K providers (private or public)



POWER Payments

Two Step Application Process

Step 1: Providers complete an application in KOALA that will include information for each eligible employee

Step 2: After DECAL verifies eligibility, each individual employee will be contacted via email to verify the information and to confirm payment preference

Application is currently open in KOALA!



Children's Mental Health Week, May 3-7

Talk it out Tuesday



Practice Using feeling words

Upset Sad Annoyed Shy
Glad Mad Angry Frustrated
Happy Confused



CHILDREN'S Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

Wellness Wednesday
Find Your Feelings



CHILDREN'S Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

Thoughtful Thursday

Traumatic experiences affect young children's social and emotional wellbeing.



CHILDREN'S Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

Mindful Monday

CALMING DOWN WITH CALI



Read by
Commissioner Amy Jacobs



CHILDREN'S Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

CHILDREN'S



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

#LittleKidsBigFeelings
#DECALCMHWeek2021

Feelings Friday

Dance to celebrate your mental health and being you!



CHILDREN'S Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning



Children's Mental Health Week, May 3-7

Coming to
Children's Mental Health Week
May 3-7

Kids on the Block
puppetry




For 3's & Pre-K Classes
Register by Clicking the link

7 SHOWTIMES
AVAILABLE









TEACHERS
post pics or attend a puppet show to win
PRIZES



Use the
Children's Mental Health Week hashtags

#LittleKidsBigFeelings
#DECALCMHWeek2021



Summer Transition Program 2021

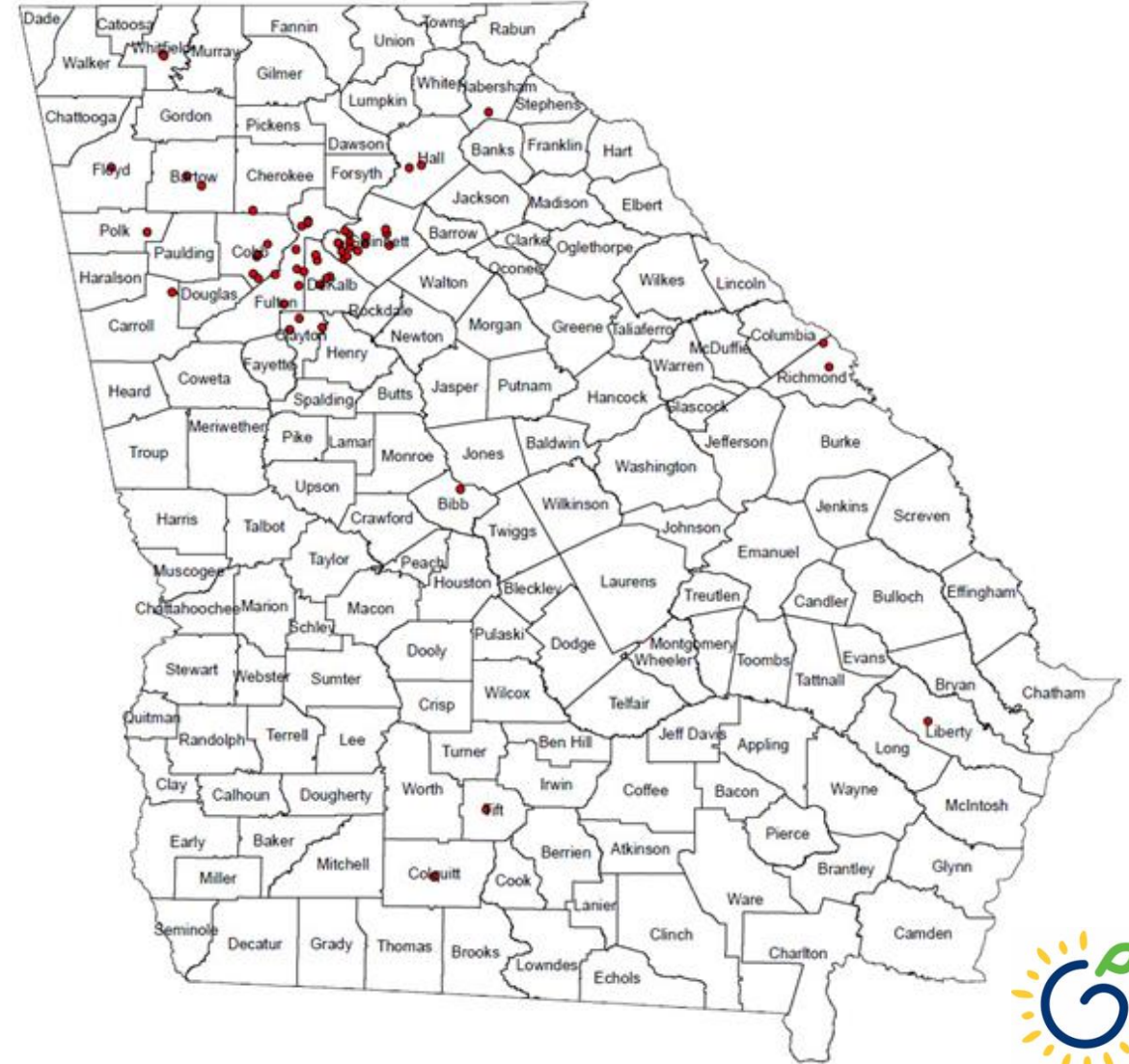
- 6-week onsite program for Rising Pre-K and Kindergarten Students.
- Lower class size (12 for Rising K, 10 for Rising Pre-K).
- To increase the number of students eligible for the program, some eligibility requirements have been modified for this summer:
 - No family income requirement will be required.
 - Students who attended in a hybrid or full distance classroom model during the 2020 – 2021 school year will be eligible.
- \$500 bonus for STP teachers and transition coach



Summer Transition Program 2021

Rising Pre-K

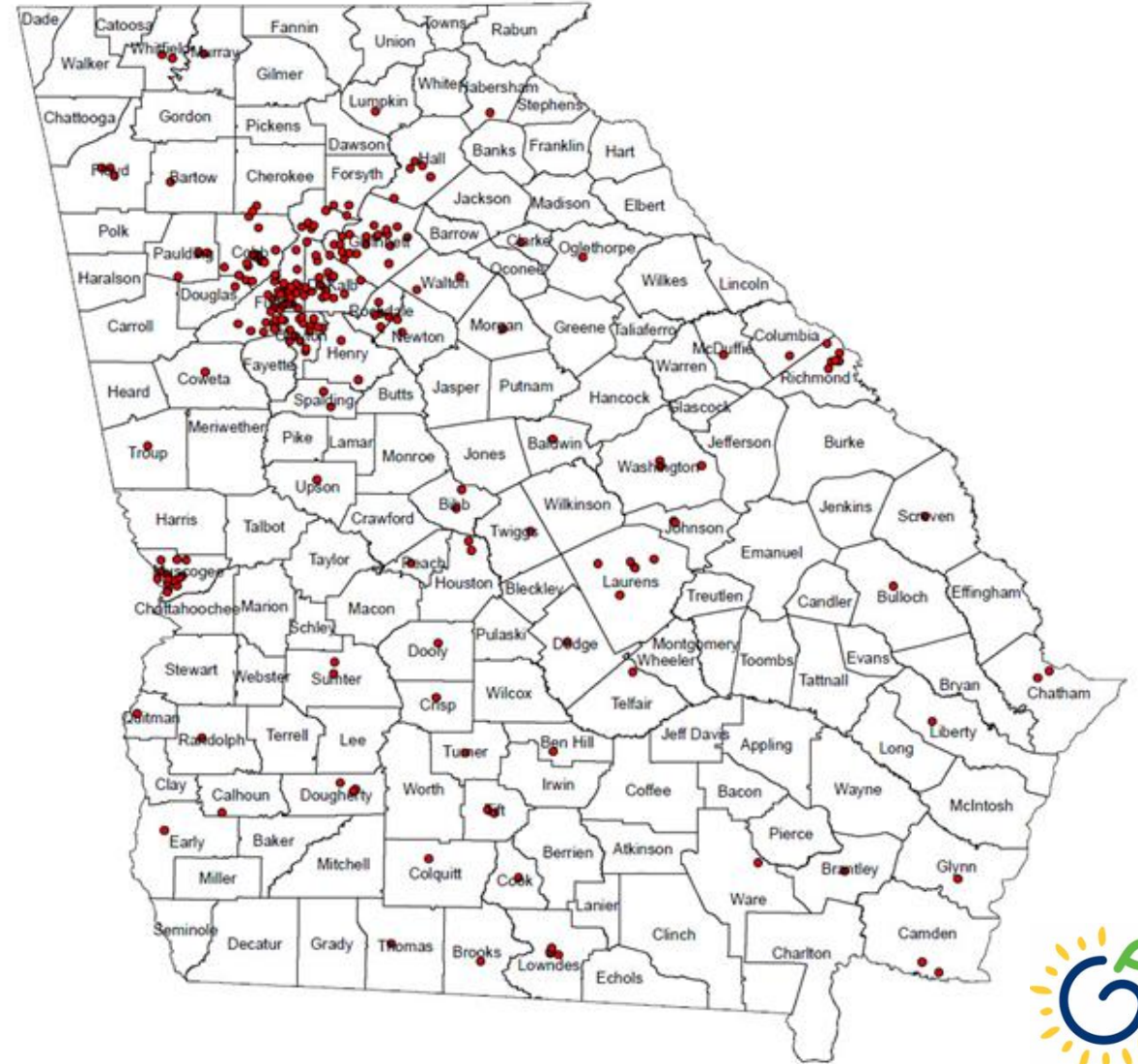
- 70 classrooms
- 700 students served
- 18 classrooms in public school programs
- 52 classrooms in private child care programs
- Operating in 18 counties across Georgia



Summer Transition Program 2021

Rising Kindergarten

- 318 classrooms
- 3816 students served
- 122 classrooms in public school programs
- 196 classrooms in private child care programs
- Operating in 66 counties across Georgia



Georgia's Pre-K School Year 2021 - 2022

- Plan to return to traditional face-to-face instruction
- Grant Applications and Awards
 - Applications have been reviewed
 - Pre-K leadership is making “first round” funding decisions
 - Considerations for funding include:
 - Need in the area
 - Program enrollment
 - Program compliance and quality
- Grant award notifications will be processed mid-May



Improving Quality in Family Child Care



- 6-month grant opportunity for FCCLH providers serving children birth to five.
- Designed to assist providers in developing strategies to support strong social emotional development and positive behavior through responsive relationships and high quality, predictable environments.
- Grant components:
 - Weekly Coaching Sessions
 - SEEDS Institutes (4)
 - Grant materials:
 - Technology package
 - Learning materials package to support social emotional development
- July-December 2021: Cohort 1



Improving Quality in Family Child Care



- 6-month grant opportunity for FCCLH providers serving infants and toddlers.
- Designed to increase provider skill in responsive care giving and developing critical early language and literacy skills.
- Grant Components:
 - Weekly coaching sessions
 - Language and Literacy Institutes (4)
 - 12-week LENA Grow cycle
 - Grant materials:
 - Technology package
 - Literacy learning materials package
- 2019: Pilot
- January-June 2021: Cohort 1
- July-December 2021: Cohort 2



Quality Innovations and Partnerships Updates

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships



Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership

Quick Review

- DECAL is an Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grantee
- Partnership is funded for 184 slots
- Utilizes a “Hub” system
 - DECAL, Quality Care for Children, 5 Child Care Learning Centers, 11 Family Child Care Learning Homes

Update

- Beginning July 1, DECAL will begin Year 7 of the Partnership
- Maria Goss, Director, accepted new federal position: Office of Head Start, Regional Manager
- Conducted interviews with a representative sample of families Fall 2020



Community Impact Grants

- 2Gen Innovation and Trauma-Responsive Care Grants Awarded April 2021. Funded through Georgia's Preschool Development Grant B-5.
 - 2 Gen Capacity Building grants (\$10,000) provide community agencies opportunities to explore needs of student parents. (5 awarded)
 - 2 Gen Implementation grants (\$25,000) provide communities opportunities to “take action” on identified needs of student parents. (4 awarded)
 - Trauma-Responsive Care Grants (\$10,000) fund projects that help ensure that families of children birth to age five have access to services and programs that are trauma-informed. (4 awarded)



Community Transformation Grants



- \$75,000 grants awarded to communities to design and implement an initiative that addresses a key “focus area”
- Focus areas defined by Georgia’s PDG B-5 Needs Assessment
- 34 community organizations submitted “letters of interest”
 - 20 invited to apply, ____ applied (applications were due May 18)



Quality Rated

- All 2021 ratings will be awarded via the Temporary Alternate Rating Option (TARO).
- TARO includes three distinct options, creating a pathway for all providers to become rated.
- January – March 2022 will be used for training and reestablishing reliability rechecks for live observations with the entire QR team.



Temporary Alternate Rating Options

Option A: 1-star, 1-year rating option (began summer 2020)

- Portfolio submission only, maximize 15 portfolio points to earn rating
- Initials and re-rates eligible; program could be temporarily closed or teaching virtually to participate

Option B: 2-star, 2-year rating option (piloted fall 2020)

- Portfolio + Guided CQI Quality Rated Virtual Process (QRVP), 12-week collaborative process with TA and QRIG
- Initials and re-rates eligible; program must be open with children in attendance to participate

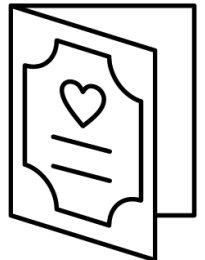
Option C: 3-star, 2-year rating option (pilot cohort 1 2021)

- Portfolio + QRVP + Live Observation – Virtual Experience (LO-VE) virtual assessment visit, culmination of QRVP practices in action
- Eligible to programs previously rated with observation only; program must be open with children in attendance to participate

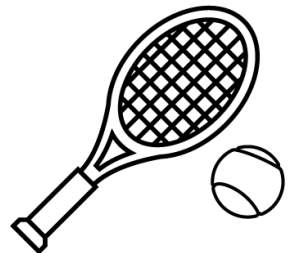


Quality Rated Social Media

What is LO-VE?



NOT a Sentiment
Celebrated on February 14



NOT a Terrible Tennis Score

Live Observation — Virtual Experience
Virtual Visit

For eligible providers seeking a re-rating
to demonstrate process quality

To learn about the TARO process
for becoming Quality Rated go to:
<http://bit.ly/TARO-Options> or call 1-855-800-7747

Thank You!

to the **36** providers that participated in
the TARO Option B Pilot in 2020



Congratulations

on earning your star rating!

To learn about the TARO process
for becoming Quality Rated go to:
<http://bit.ly/TARO-Options> or call 1-855-800-7747.



Figure 1. Average points earned during the QRVP pilot by topic and provider type (n=36)

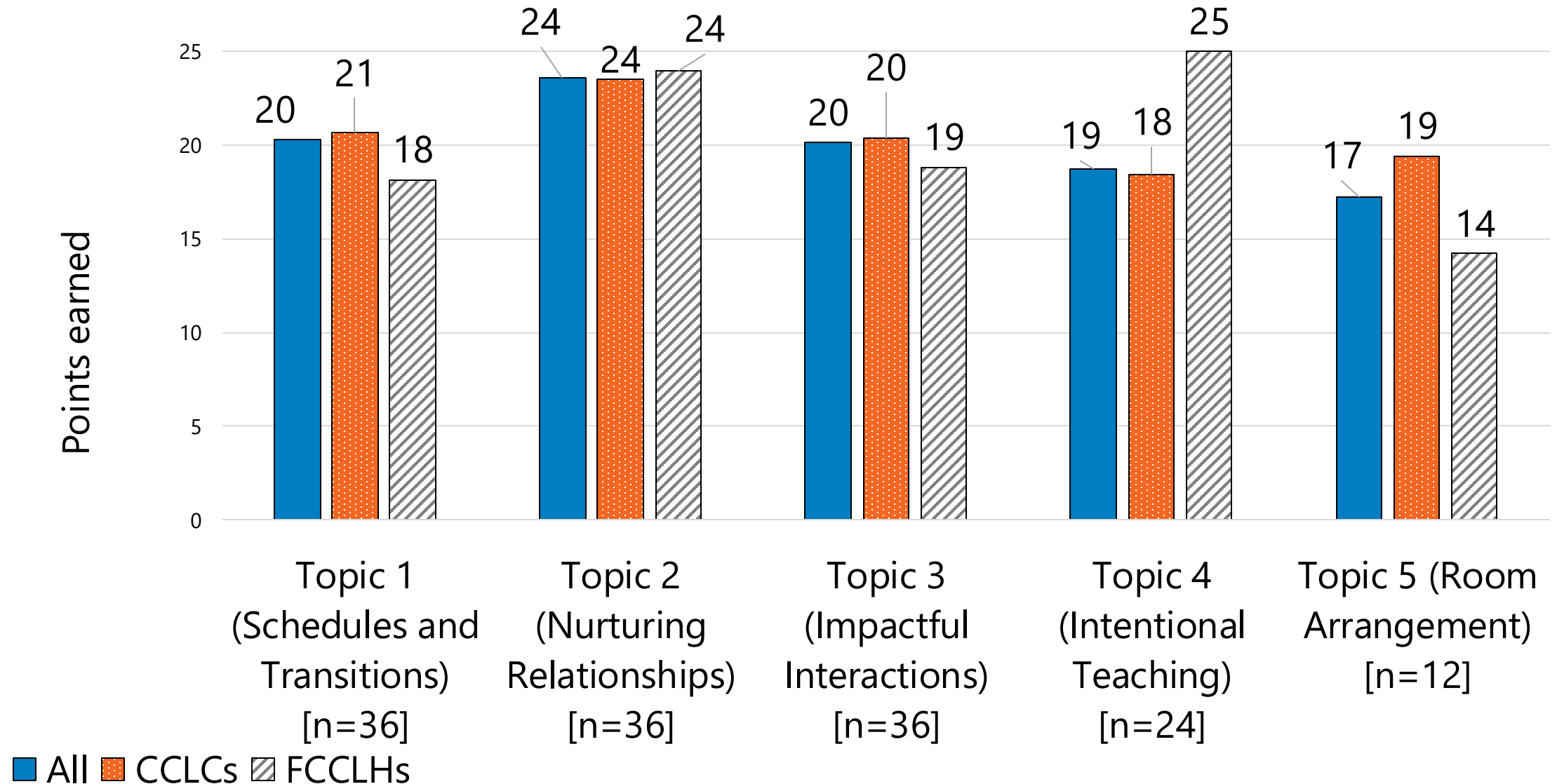
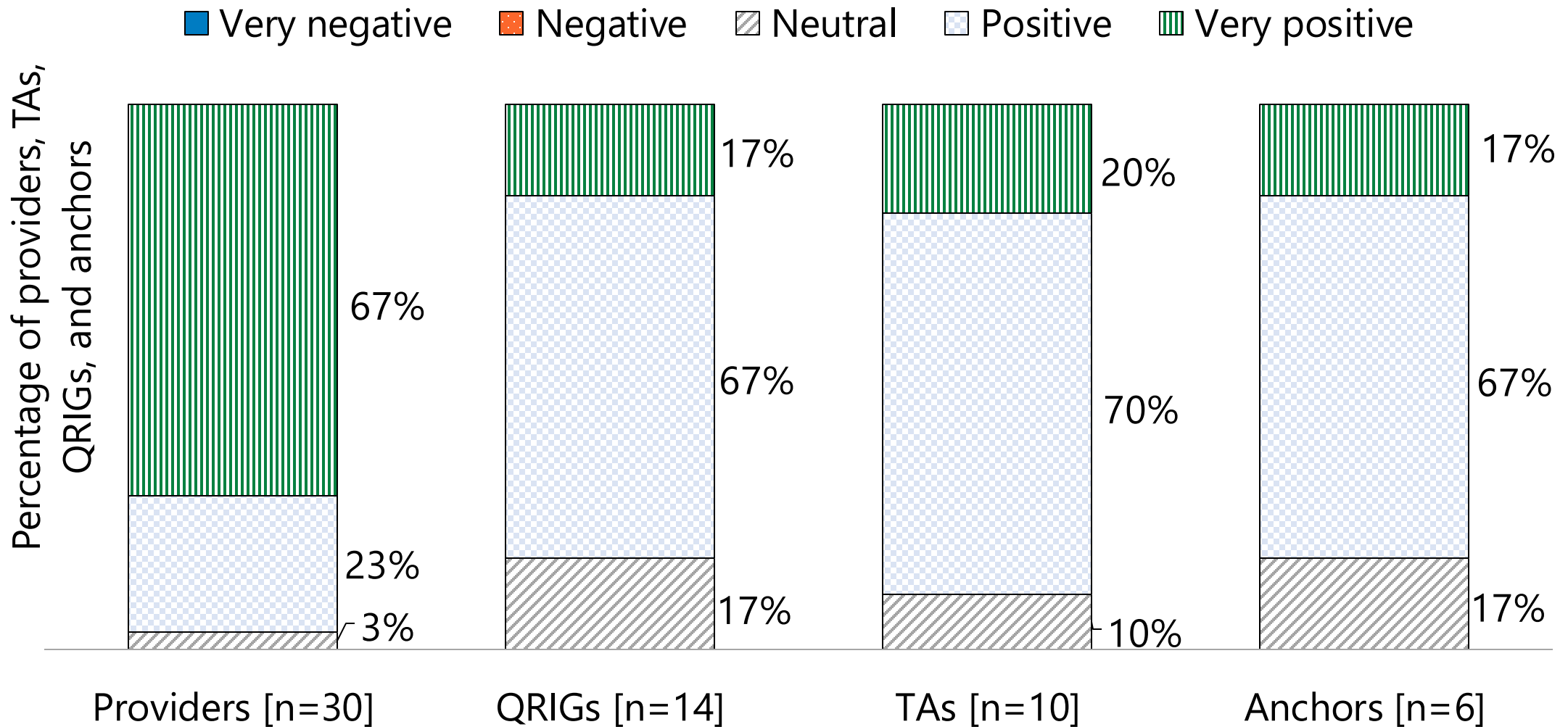


Figure 2. Provider, QRIG, TA, and anchor responses to the question “How would you describe your overall experience with the pilot?”



Providers' overall thoughts on the QRVP pilot



“**At first I was hesitant** but as I got into the topics it was very informative to me. It was refreshing. It **made me rethink** in areas **where I had gotten a little slack.**”

“**Teachers became more interactive** with their families. It really **changed the way families looked at our staff.**”

“It improved our program and **provided a way to better showcase our program.**”

“**Transitions are a lot better now. My schedule flows better.**”

“The entire process was a learning experience. As a **new director**, it **helped me to understand my role** and **what I should expect** from my staff.”

“We learned **different strategies** to use when **transitioning**. We mostly used the same one over and over now we have a variety of transitions.”





The deadline for the
CAPS/QR goal is
December 31, 2021.



Transition timeline of families to Quality Rated providers

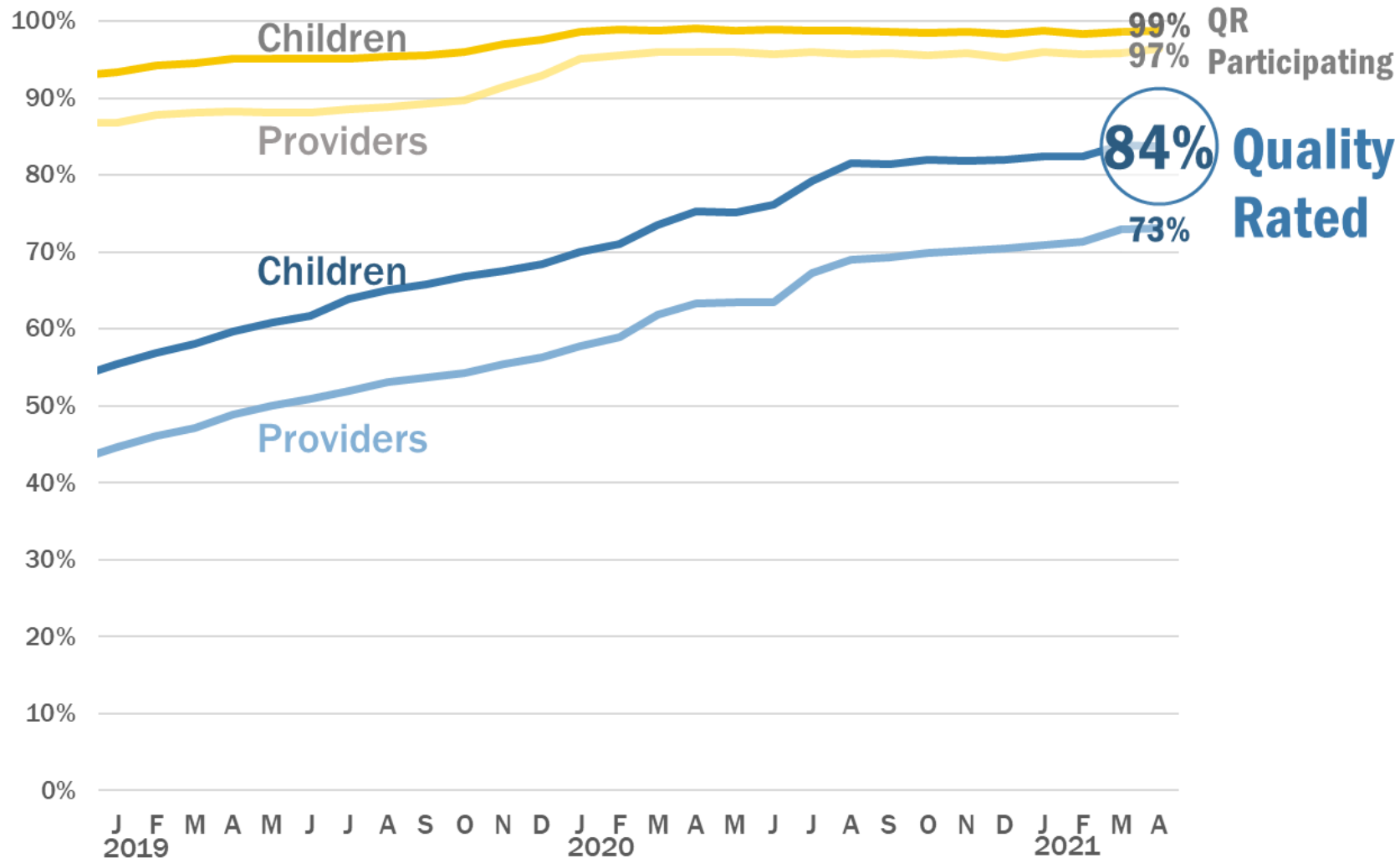
After **August 1, 2021**, new families may select only QR providers or those signed up for a cohort.

If provider not star rated or in the process to complete their rating, families move to QR provider at next renewal after **January 1, 2022**.

Deadline for providers to be rated is **December 31, 2021**.



84% of children receiving CAPS are at a **Quality Rated** provider.





8,910 children who receive a CAPS scholarship are receiving care at programs not yet Quality Rated.

- 192 CAPS providers have not signed up for a 2021 cohort.
- 37 of these providers have 10 or more children with CAPS scholarships.
- 16% of children who receive a CAPS scholarship remain in unrated care.

TARO Rating Incentive Packages

2021 TARO Rating Incentive Packages			
Programs who are in a 2021 cohort			
TARO Option	Workforce/ Director	Workforce/ Teacher	Program Award
Option A	\$300	\$150	\$500
Option B	\$450	\$300	\$700
Option C	\$700	\$450	\$1000



Federal Programs Updates

Elisabetta Kasfir, Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs



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What is ACCESS?



Overview of Rates & Fees

- **CAPS Base Rate:** The maximum reimbursement rate that CAPS pays.
- **Provider Published Rate:** The amount the child care program charges families.
- **Family Fee:** A portion of the CAPS base rate that each family is responsible for paying on a weekly basis directly to the child care provider.
- **Rate Differential:** The difference between what CAPS pays and what the provider charges.



Overview of Rates & Fees

Scholarship Details

Scholarship No.	5550889	Actual Provider Weekly Charge	\$200
Care Type	BV - Variable Schedule Scholarship	CAPS Weekly Rate	\$150
Child Name	[REDACTED]	Family Fee	\$20
Date of Birth	07.08.2020	CAPS Weekly Amount to Provider	\$130
Begin Care	12.07.2020	Parent Weekly Responsibility	\$70
End Care	03.21.2021	Registration Fee	Not eligible
Last Modified	03.20.2021	Scholarship Visibility	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Show <input type="radio"/> Hide

ACCESS pays instead of the family!



CAPS ACCESS Components



Provider Rate Updates



Scholarship Correction



Payment Solution



Communication Plan



DECAL's Policy Acceleration Partnership Grant

Donna Johnson, Family Support Director for Development and Partnerships



Policy Acceleration Partnership Grant

- **Funders:** Ascend at the Aspen Institute and The Liz Blake Giving Fund of the Blake Family Foundation.
- **Purpose:** Support cities, counties, and states committed to increasing economic mobility and well-being for students who are parents.
- **Grant Amount:** \$150,000
- **Grant Period:** 18 months (March 2021 – September 2022)
- **Target Population:** Single mothers and student parents seeking or participating in:
 - Adult Basic Education
 - Adult Secondary Education programs
 - English Language Learners



Policy Acceleration Partnership Grant

Funders

- **Ascend at the Aspen Institute:** Serve as a hub for ideas and collaborations that move children and their parents toward educational success and economic security. They use a two-generation (2Gen) approach which focuses on children and their parents together.
- **Liz Blake Giving Fund of the Blake Family Foundation:** Liz and Frank Blake are philanthropists who have retired and want to make an impact on the City of Atlanta as it relates to health, educational attainment, and economic empowerment across racial and socioeconomic groups.



Additional Policy Acceleration Partnership Grantees



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**Technical College
System of Georgia**



m
OFFICE OF
HIGHER EDUCATION



COLORADO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



2Gen Georgia Project

Expand current 2Gen Georgia initiatives to improve and strengthen coordination across childcare, post-secondary education, and state benefit services resulting in a strong alignment between programs and initiatives funded through:

- Child Care Development Funding (CCDF)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)



Additional Grant Partners



Secondary Schools

Cobb County Schools

Atlanta Public Schools

Clayton County Schools



Post-Secondary and Adult Education

Technical College
System of Georgia

University Systems of
Georgia



Workforce

Technical College
System of Georgia
(WIOA)



Community Partner

Nana Grants



Project Goals

- Defining shared goals and opportunities for cross-agency policy alignment at the state level.
- Increasing access for single mothers and student parents for state, community, and educational supports and opportunities.
- Strengthening coaching and case management skills for state- and community-level staff.
- Ensuring parents are included in conversations and strategies to reduce and eliminate barriers to needed services and inform new practices and policies.
- Expanding the 2Generation Georgia network to include other state and community partners.



Focus of Projects

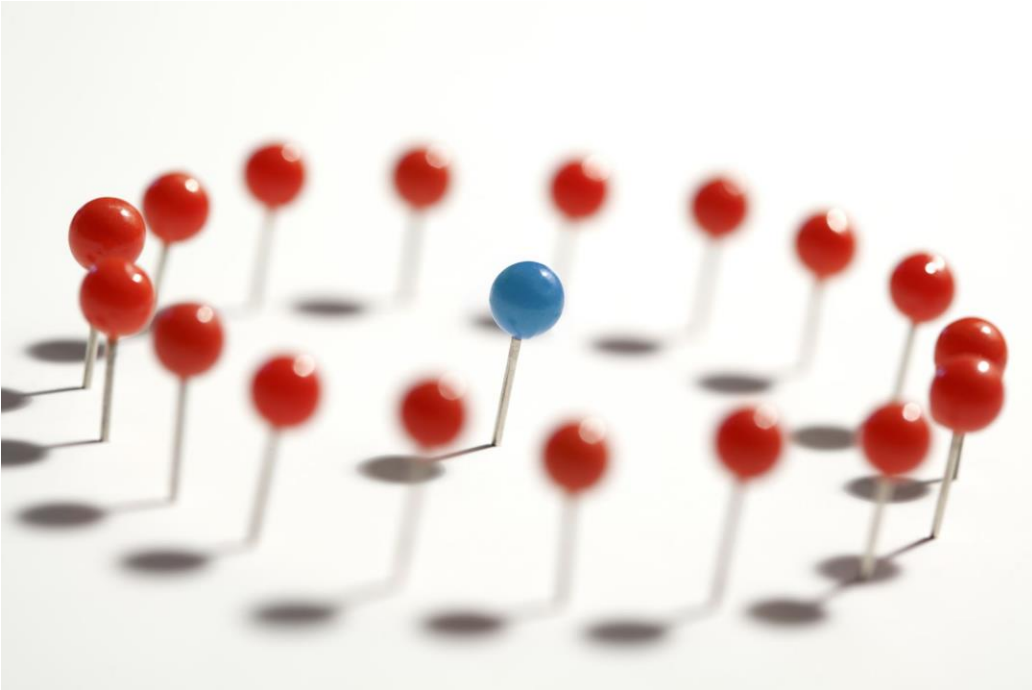


1. Convene State and Community Leaders
2. Reduce Barriers and Improve Access
3. Strengthen Staff Knowledge and Skills
4. Incorporate Parent Voice and Experience
5. Expand 2Gen Georgia network



State 2Gen Leadership Council

- **Participants:**
 - Organizations currently implementing or have an interest in implementing 2Gen strategies within their organizations.
 - Organizations that provide benefit services/supports for single parents and student parents.
 - Representative from Parent Advisory Council.
- **Focus**
 - Exploring areas for policy alignment for program eligibility.
 - Establishing a process to support data matching to assist in identifying student parents eligible for support services based on existing eligibility in other programs.



Community 2Gen Leadership Councils

Partner with local communities to serve as pilot sites in North, Metropolitan Atlanta Area, and South Georgia centered around three TCSG campuses that have existing 2Gen efforts.

- **Participants:**
 - State 2Gen Leadership Council Representatives.
 - Parents within target population.
- **Focus**
 - Challenges and opportunities affecting educational attainment for single mothers and student parents.
 - Inform state-level policy and practice changes.



Reducing Barriers and Increasing Access

Resource and Referral Portal: Support community and educational access for parents.



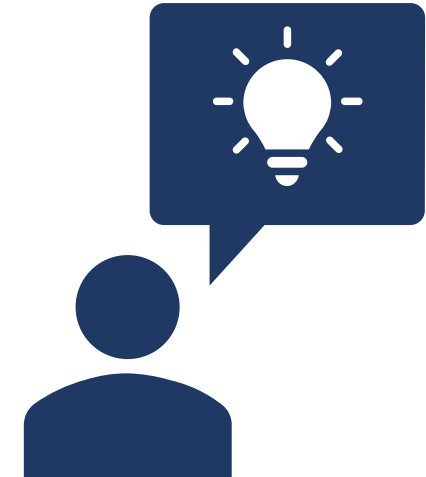
- **Families:** Easily identify and access community resources and supports.
- **DECAL and TCSG Frontline staff:**
 - Identify appropriate resources
 - Make applicable referrals
 - Track outcomes
 - Monitor progress for student parents transitioning from:
 - Adult Secondary Education to Technical Education or University Systems of Georgia (USG)
 - Adult Secondary Education to Employment
 - Technical Education to University Systems of Georgia



Strengthen Staff Knowledge and Skills

Family-Centered Coaching (FCC): Better equip staff with the mindset, tools, and skills to support families.

- Provide training for staff:
 - DECAL
 - TCSG
- Develop Cross-Agency Leadership team to support efficacy in implementation.
- Provide ongoing support for staff in FCC practices.



Parent Voice

Parent Advisory Council

Ensure parent voices and experience are used to identify barriers and inform strategies.

- **Participants**
 - Nine parents (three from each pilot site) representing target population.
- **Focus**
 - Understanding issues, challenges, and opportunities that impact educational attainment.



Expand 2Gen Georgia Network

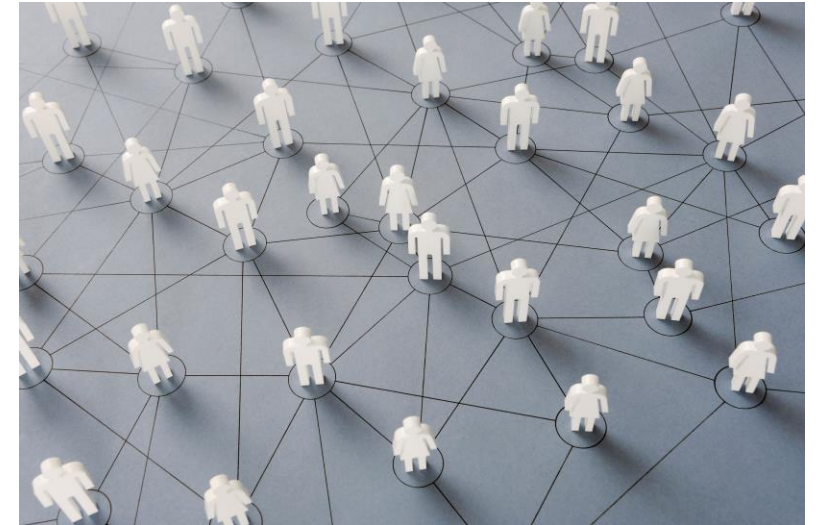
2Gen Georgia Summit: Engage other agencies in 2Gen Georgia efforts.

- **Participants**

- Current 2Gen partners.
- Agencies and organizations interested in learning about 2Gen strategies for supporting children and families.

- **Focus**

- Share information about 2Gen Georgia.
- Share outcomes from grant projects and activities.
- Invite others to join the network.



Overall Goal for 2Gen GA

Strengthen and accelerate Georgia's efforts to help stabilize families, build economic resiliency, and continue a path towards self-sufficiency as our country emerges from this global pandemic.



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Child Care Services Updates

Jennifer Bridgeman, Process and Quality Improvement Manager



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Supporting CCS Rule Changes Through a Collaborative Approach



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Grounded in Best Practice

- Caring for Our Children
- Quality Rated
- State Licensing Rules & Regulations (FL, NC, SC, TN, PA, MA, WA)



Support *Prior* to Rule Changes

- Providers
 - Live Provider webinars
 - Web posting of recorded webinar
- Staff
 - Live webinar
 - Intentional mealtime training (CHOA)
 - Updating visit checklists



- Updated Rules & Regulations
- Updated content in the CCLC & FCCLH Indicator Manuals
- Resources
 - Rule change FAQs developed
 - Connecting Mealtimes to the Georgia Early Learning Development Standards
 - Reducing the Risk of Choking in Young Children at Mealtimes
- Training
 - New Licensing Regulations and Mealtime: An Opportunity to Support Child Development

Support *After* Rule Changes



Feedback from Providers

“We do not use highchairs for our infants, but after seeing the choking risks when holding or sitting in a Bumbo seat for feeding, we are reconsidering our feeding methods.”

“I will ensure that children are fed the appropriate foods based on developmental age.”

“I will be sure that I am sitting and engaging in conversation with them [children] while eating lunch, snack and breakfast.”

“I will re-emphasize to my staff that sometimes choking can be a silent incident and children may not cough when choking.”



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Welcome to the Board of Early Care
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Public Comment

May 20, 2021



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Election of Board Officers



Board Meeting Dates **2021**

- ~~February 18, 2021~~
- ~~May 20, 2021~~
- August 26, 2021
- November 18, 2021

