

Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

May 19, 2022



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**

BRIGHT FROM THE START

DECAL Board Meeting: Webinar 101

For Board Members joining virtually:

- 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 joining virtually:

- 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 two business days.
- PowerPoint presentation will also be posted.



Board Meeting Welcome

Phil Davis, Board Chair



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Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve 05/19/22 agenda
- Approve 02/17/22 minutes



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Inspiration

Debra Brock



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Board Member Updates

Commissioner's Updates

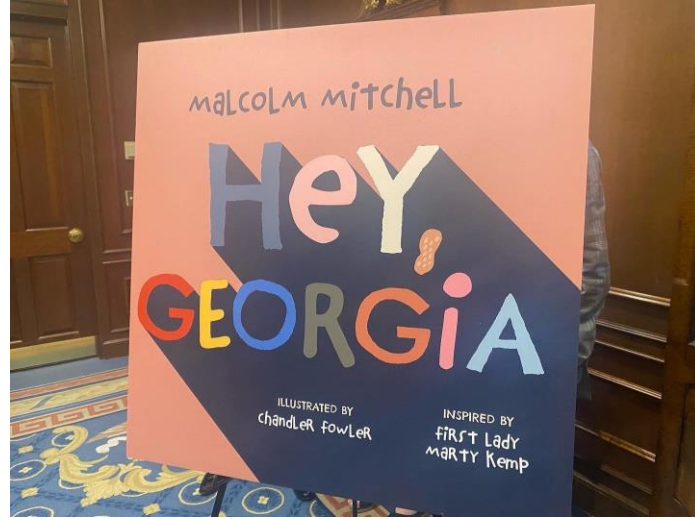
Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner



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Hey, Georgia Event at the Capitol

- Georgia's Pre-K Book for 2022 – 2023 School Year
- Written by Malcom Mitchell
- Inspired by First Lady Marty Kemp



2022 – 2023 Pre-K Teacher of the Year Finalists

Public School Finalists:

- Debbie Carraway – Thomas County
- Melissa Boswell – Houston County
- Shannon Gibson – Habersham County

Private Child Care Center Finalists:

- Shazia Ali – Gwinnett County
- Alaina Jones – Forsyth County
- Silina Hodges – Coweta County





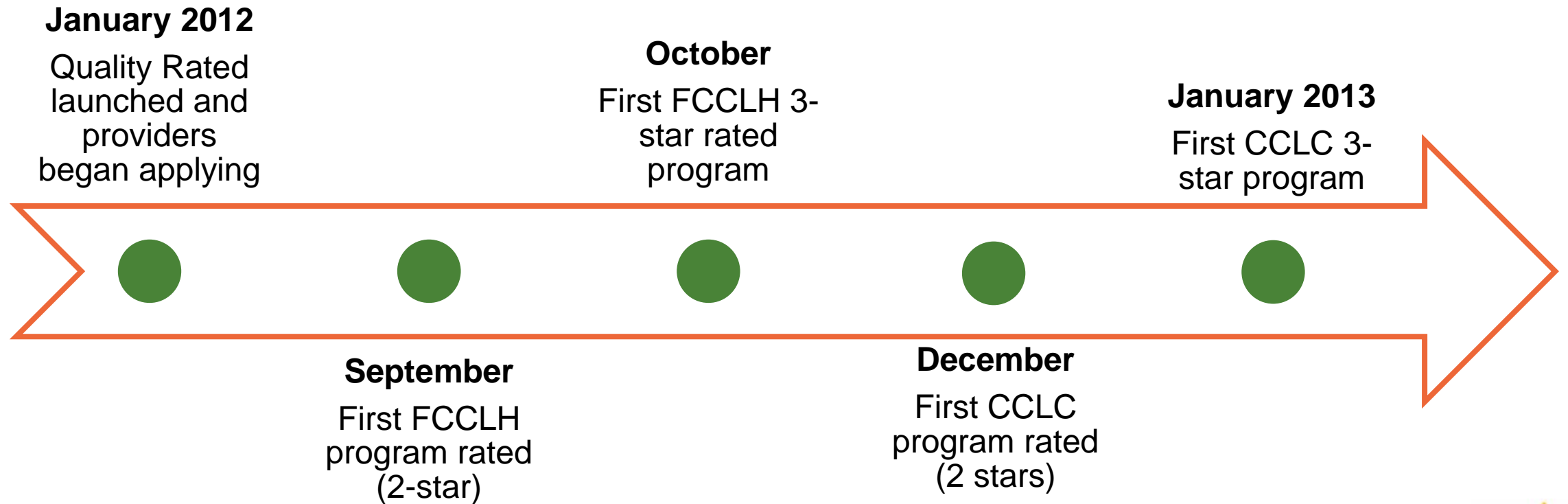
Quality Rated 10-Year Anniversary

“Decade of Stars”

Logo coming soon



Quality Rated Anniversary Benchmarks



Quality Rated Anniversary Activities



Regional tours and celebrations



Toddler book and teacher toolbox



New signs



10-year communication campaign



Braves Day



Finance, Administration, & Nutrition Updates

Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance & Administration



Budget Comparison

Data as of March 31st	Budget	Expenditures*	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
By Program				
Child Care Services	\$935,113,087	\$594,367,670	\$340,745,417	36%
Nutrition	\$163,375,623	\$115,959,992	\$47,415,631	29%
Pre-K + (HS)	\$383,195,372	\$291,144,111	\$92,051,261	24%
Quality Initiatives	\$46,217,134	\$38,023,154	\$8,193,980	18%
Totals	\$1,527,901,216	\$1,039,494,926	\$488,406,290	32%

By Fund Source				
State General	\$58,076,119	\$36,471,220	\$21,604,899	37%
State Lottery	\$382,969,668	\$291,021,713	\$91,947,955	24%
Federal	\$1,086,422,556	\$711,896,921	\$374,525,558	34%
Other	\$432,873	\$105,072	\$327,878	76%
Totals	\$1,527,901,216	\$1,039,494,926	\$488,406,290	32%

* Includes encumbrances.

Finance Update FY 2022 Budget Summary – Q3



AFY 2022 Appropriations

	FY 22 Original Appropriation	FY 22 Amended Appropriation	Change
By Program			
Child Care Services	\$324,285,754	\$324,335,638	\$49,884
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,300,000	\$300,000
Pre-K + (HS)	\$382,734,866	\$383,144,668	\$409,802
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
Totals	\$916,435,442	\$917,195,128	\$759,686

By Fund Source			
State General	\$57,726,235	\$58,076,119	\$349,884
State Lottery	\$382,559,866	\$382,969,668	\$409,802
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
Totals	\$916,435,442	\$917,195,128	\$759,686

HB 910 Amended FY 2022



FY 2023 Appropriation

	FY 22 Original Appropriation	FY 23 Final Appropriation	Change
By Program			
Child Care Services	\$324,285,754	\$327,996,336	\$3,710,582
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	\$0
Pre-K + (HS)	\$382,734,866	\$401,075,881	\$18,341,015
Quality Initiatives	\$61,414,822	\$61,414,822	\$0
Totals	\$916,435,442	\$938,487,039	\$22,051,597

By Fund Source			
State General	\$57,726,235	\$61,436,817	\$3,710,582
State Lottery	\$382,559,866	\$400,900,881	\$18,341,015
Federal	\$475,649,841	\$475,649,841	\$0
Other	\$499,500	\$499,500	\$0
Totals	\$916,435,442	\$938,487,039	\$22,051,597

HB 911 FY 2023 Appropriation





Start-up Grants for Happy Helpings



- Start-up grants offered to expand access to meals in unserved or underserved areas
 - \$300k allocated as part of amended FY22 budget.
 - Expanding access to nutritious meals and snacks in 75 Georgia counties where meal sites were not available last summer.
 - Up to \$25,000 per project offered to experienced sponsors.
 - Application Deadline on May 23.
 - Awards announced on June 1.



Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children



Start-up Grants: Unserved Counties



Happy Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

Atkinson	Dodge	Jenkins	Oglethorpe	Telfair
Bacon	Echols	Johnson	Pierce	Towns
Baker	Emanuel	Jones	Pike	Treutlen
Baldwin	Evans	Lamar	Polk	Turner
Banks	Forsyth	Laurens	Pulaski	Twiggs
Bleckley	Gilmer	Long	Putnam	Union
Brantley	Gordon	Lumpkin	Quitman	Upton
Camden	Grady	Madison	Richmond	Washington
Charlton	Greene	Marion	Schley	Wayne
Chattahoochee	Habersham	Meriwether	Screven	Webster
Clarke	Hancock	Miller	Stewart	Wheeler
Clinch	Harris	Montgomery	Sumter	White
Crawford	Heard	Morgan	Talbot	Wilcox
Dade	Jasper	Murray	Taliaferro	Wilkinson
Dawson	Jeff Davis	Oconee	Taylor	Worth

DECAL Nutrition is seeking partners to increase access to meals and snacks in underserved or unserved Georgia counties through Happy Helpings during summer 2022.



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Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children



Happy
Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

Grant Requirements

Each project will have a budget of up to \$25,000 for the period of June-August 2022.

Requirements:

- Must be an approved experienced Happy Helpings sponsor prior to receiving funds.
- Must sign a grant agreement amendment with DECAL.
- Must agree to operate a Happy Helpings meal site in one or more of the DECAL specified counties.
- Must use grant funds only on allowable Happy Helpings costs.
- Must submit the Happy Helpings start-up grant application by 11:59 p.m. on May 23, 2022.
- Must have the ability to share project outcomes, including how funds were used, by September 30, 2022.



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Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children

Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports Updates

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



Children's Mental Health Week, May 2 - 6



KIDS ON THE BLOCK PUPPETRY

COMING TO

3 SHOWS

MAY 2ND, 4TH & 6TH

FOR 3'S AND PRE-K CLASSES



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

MHA Mental Health America of Georgia

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Children's Mental Health Week, May 2 - 6



Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Updates

- Georgia Alliance for Infant Mental Health: Birth to Five (GA-AIMH) established.
- Mental Health Parity Bill passed.
- Medicaid Services for birth – age 6 posted.
- Funding secured to support Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) training.





Georgia's
Pre-K Program



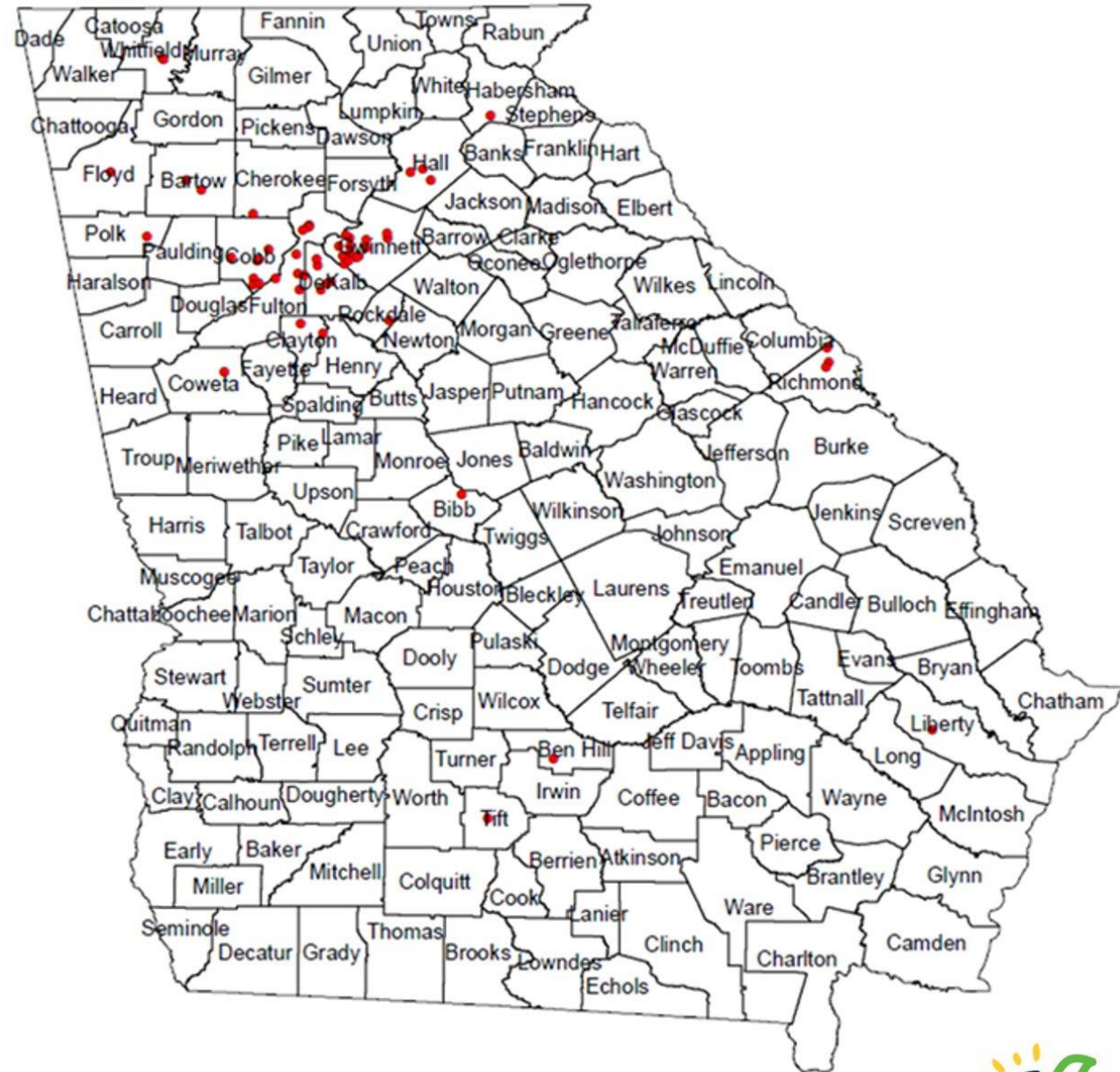
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Summer Transition Program 2022

- 6-week in person program for Rising Pre-K and Rising Kindergarten Students.
- Lower class sizes (12 for Rising K, 10 for Rising Pre-K)
- No family income requirement
- Bonuses:
 - \$500 bonus for STP teachers
 - \$250 bonus for transition coach (½ time position)

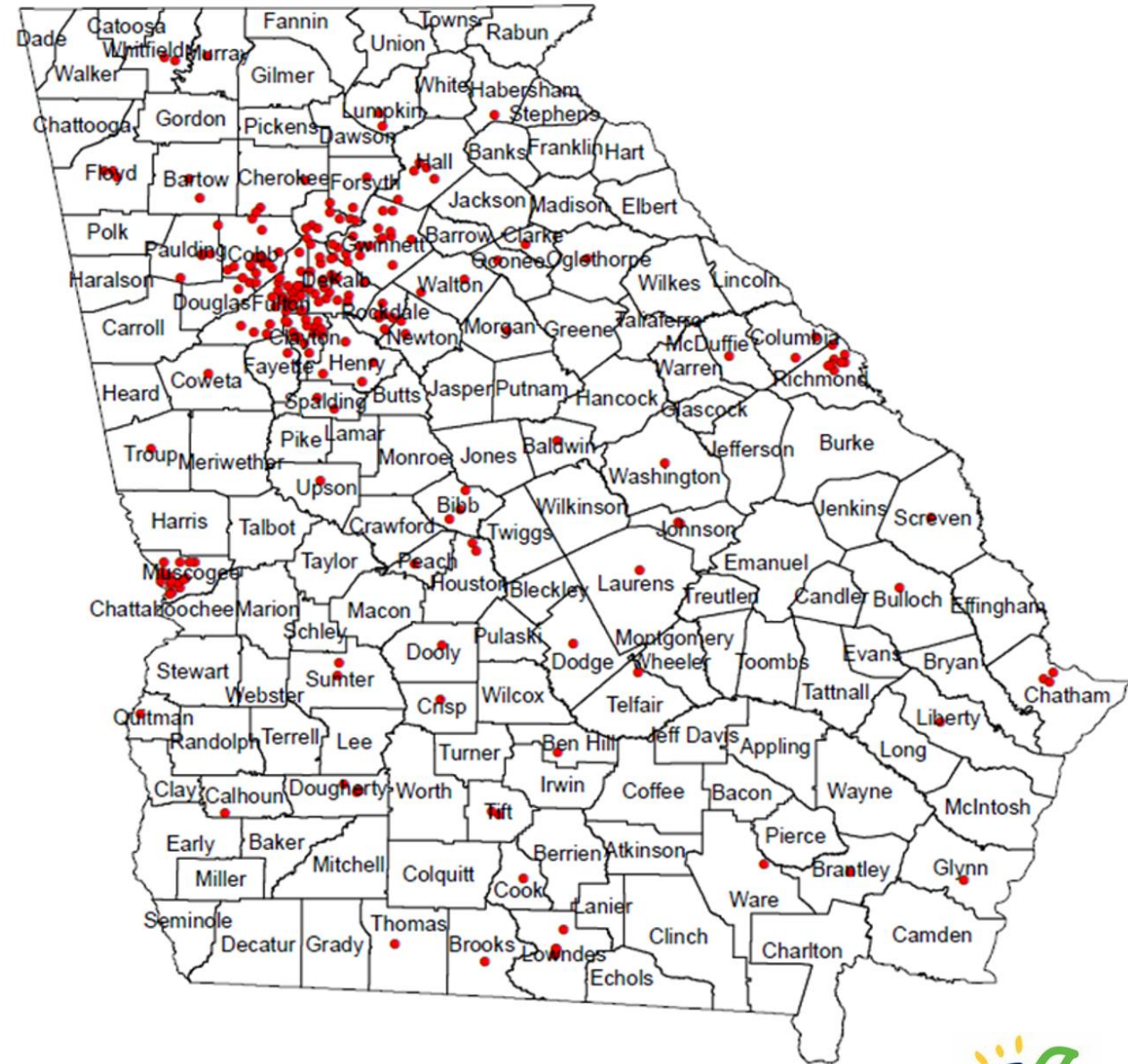
Rising Pre-K

- 720 slots
- 20 counties
- 72 classrooms
 - Public: 19
 - Private: 53



Rising Kindergarten

- 3816 slots
- 61 counties
- 318 classrooms
 - Public: 111
 - Private: 207



Georgia's Pre-K School Year 2022 - 2023

- Grant award notifications were processed mid-May.
 - Total awarded: 3,792
 - Continuation Classrooms: 3,742
 - New Classrooms: 21
 - Expansion Classrooms: 39

Additional classrooms will be awarded as areas of additional need are identified.

Supporting the Early Learning Workforce

Dr. Christi Moore, Director of Professional Learning



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POWER Payments

- Eligibility Requirements
 - Must be employed by an eligible program at least one month before application period opens
 - Must work onsite at an eligible program for at least 20 hours per week
 - Must be in an eligible role
- Eligible Programs
 - Georgia child care program licensed by DECAL or DOD
 - Exempt Georgia Head Start or Early Head Start program
 - Georgia's Pre-K provider (private or public)
- Applications submitted by provider on behalf of eligible staff



Round 1 and 2 Recipients

Round 1

- Application Period: May 17 – June 18, 2021
- Eligible Recipients: 37,171

Round 2

- Application Period: January 18 – February 18, 2022
- Eligible Recipients: 38,201



Round 1 Survey: Key Takeaways

- As many as 89% of the eligible workforce received a POWER 1 payment
- While most respondents did not experience reductions in work hours or income due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, of those affected, family child care learning homes saw more reductions

Change in work hours due to COVID-19	Respondent Facility Type				
	CCLC	DOD	FCCLH	GAEHS	GAHS
Decreased by 1 - 10 hours per week	15.7%	14.3%	24.9%	4.7%	4.8%
Decreased by more than 10 hours per week	8.9%	7.0%	15.2%	4.7%	3.7%
Increased by 1 - 10 hours per week	5.5%	4.5%	7.4%	1.2%	2.0%
Increased by more than 10 hours per week	2.9%	3.2%	4.7%		0.5%
Not affected	67.0%	70.9%	47.9%	89.5%	89.0%

Change in income due to COVID-19	Respondent Facility Type				
	CCLC	DOD	FCCLH	GAEHS	GAHS
Decreased by \$1 - \$50 per week	9.4%	7.6%	18.3%	2.3%	2.0%
Decreased by more than \$50 per week	15.1%	12.7%	44.6%	2.3%	2.7%
Increased by \$1 - \$50 per week	3.0%	2.6%	2.6%		6.0%
Increased by more than \$50 per week	1.6%	1.1%	1.9%	1.2%	0.5%
Not affected	70.9%	76.0%	32.6%	94.2%	88.6%



Round 3

Application Period: June 1 – July 1, 2022

POWER Team Contact Information

supplementalpayments@dec.al.ga.gov

470-717-2012



Classroom Grants

- Instructional staff in eligible programs received a \$125 classroom grant to purchase supplies and materials to use in their classrooms or family child care learning homes
- To receive the grant, staff must be eligible for a POWER Round 2 payment and must work in one of the following roles:
 - Lead Teacher
 - Assistant Teacher
 - Family Child Care Provider
 - Family Child Care Aide
- Emails with information on how to access come from info@classwallet.com
- Funds must be spent by June 30, 2022



Break

Ten Minutes



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Child Care Services Updates

Pam Stevens, Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services



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Child Care Services Rule Revisions



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CCS Proposed Rule Changes - CCLC

Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers

Rule Chapter 591-1-1-

- .02 – Definitions** – removing reference to the word “paper” for valid evidence of fingerprint and comprehensive background checks
- .09 – Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks** – removing reference of the word “paper” for valid evidence
- .07 – Children’s Health** – requiring notification in writing to parents of cases or suspected cases of viruses or illnesses identified during a public health emergency (ex. COVID-19)
- .08 – Children’s Records** – update terminology to “intellectual disabilities”

CCS Proposed Rule Changes - CCLC

Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers

Rule Chapter 591-1-1-

- .29 – Required Reporting*** – update to “Division” of Family and Children Services;
- adding requirement for the preservation of records for required reports to be kept for 12 months;
 - defining “records” to include but not be limited to, audio, video, photos, written documentation, social media posts, and other electronic information
- .37 – Inspections and Investigations*** – defining “records” to include but not be limited to, audio, video, photos, written documentation, social media posts, and other electronic information;
- requiring programs to preserve records for 12 months for inspections and investigations

CCS Proposed Rule Changes - FCCLH

Rules and Regulations for Family Child Care Learning Homes

Rule Chapter 290-2-3-

.03 – Definitions – removing reference to the word “paper” for valid evidence of fingerprint and comprehensive background checks

.21 – Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks – removing reference of the word “paper” for valid evidence

.08 - Children’s Records - requiring notification in writing to parents of cases or suspected cases of viruses or illnesses identified during a public health emergency (ex. COVID-19)

CCS Proposed Rule Changes - FCCLH

Rules and Regulations for Family Child Care Learning Homes

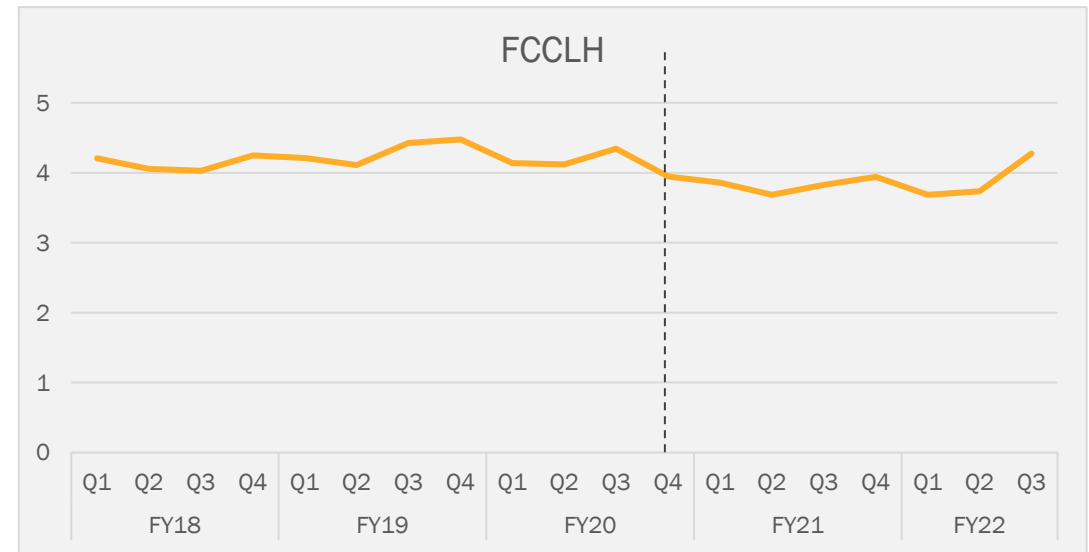
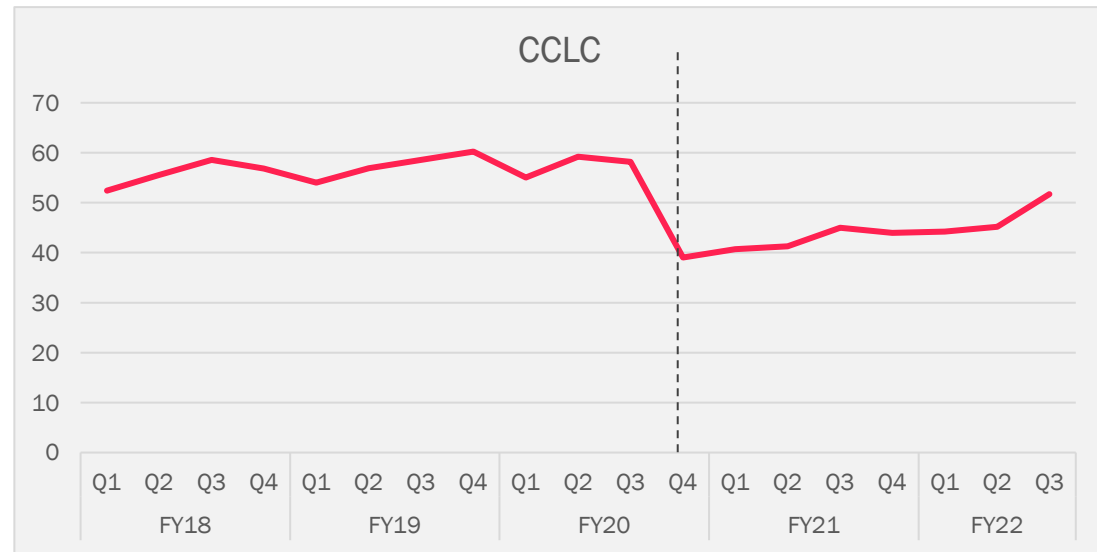
Rule Chapter 290-2-3-

- .05 – Inspections and Investigations** – defining when inspections or investigations may be conducted;
 - defining “records” to include but not be limited to, audio, video, photos, written documentation, social media posts, and other electronic information;
 - requiring programs to preserve records for 12 months for inspections and investigations;
 - requiring access to **all** parts of the Home
- .14 – Reporting** – update to “Division” of Family and Children Services;
 - adding requirement for the preservation of records for required reports to be kept for 12 months;
 - defining “records” to include but not be limited to, audio, video, photos, written documentation, social media posts, and other electronic information

Averages of Staff and Children Recorded Present - **All Ages**

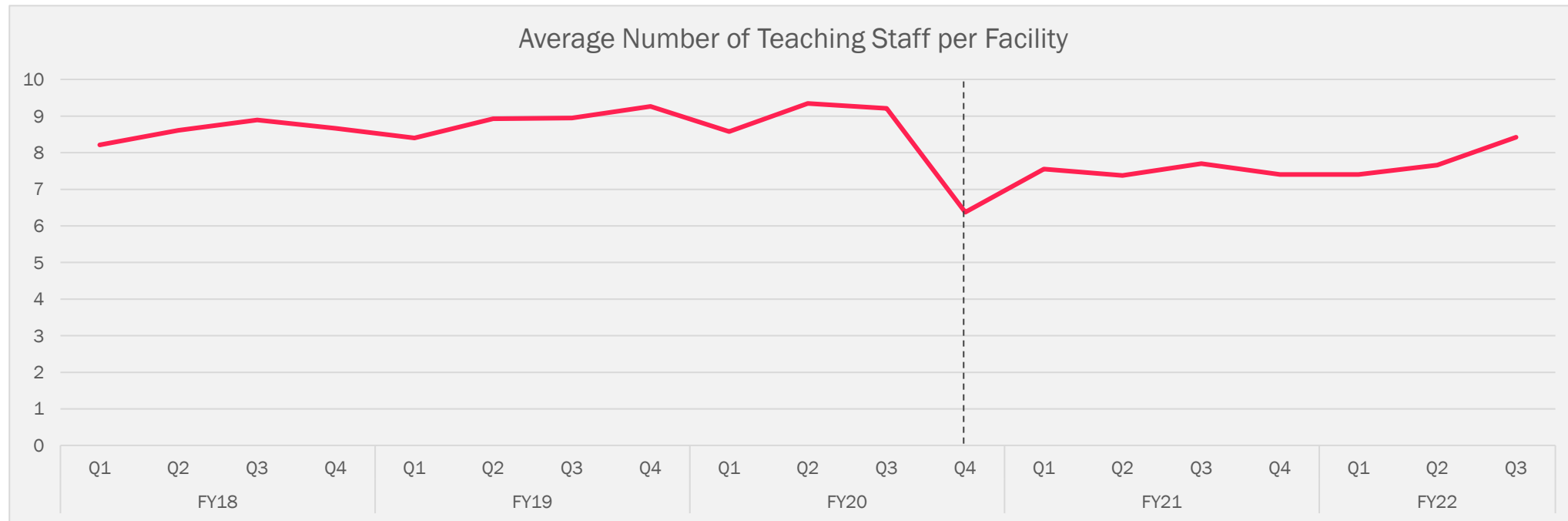
Visits with hour of arrival between 9AM - 12PM

Average Number of Children Present per Provider							1 Year Change
Provider Type	Quarter	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	
Child Care Learning Center (CCLC)	Q1	52.45	54.05	55.04	40.70	44.20	9%
	Q2	55.59	56.92	59.23	41.29	45.19	9%
	Q3	58.59	58.55	58.17	45.23	51.73	14%
	Q4	56.87	60.22	39.03	43.67		12%
	Annual Average	55.90	57.43	56.58	42.91	47.17	10%
Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH)	Q1	4.21	4.21	4.14	3.86	3.68	-5%
	Q2	4.05	4.11	4.12	3.69	3.73	1%
	Q3	4.03	4.43	4.34	3.83	4.28	12%
	Q4	4.25	4.48	3.95	3.94		0%
	Annual Average	4.13	4.33	4.19	3.82	3.92	2%



Average Number of Classroom Staff Present per Facility - CCLC

Quarter	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	1 Year Change
Q1	8.21	8.40	8.58	7.55	7.41	-2%
Q2	8.61	8.93	9.35	7.38	7.66	4%
Q3	8.89	8.95	9.21	7.70	8.42	9%
Q4	8.67	9.27	6.38	7.40		16%
Annual Avg	8.60	8.88	8.91	7.51	7.85	4.4%

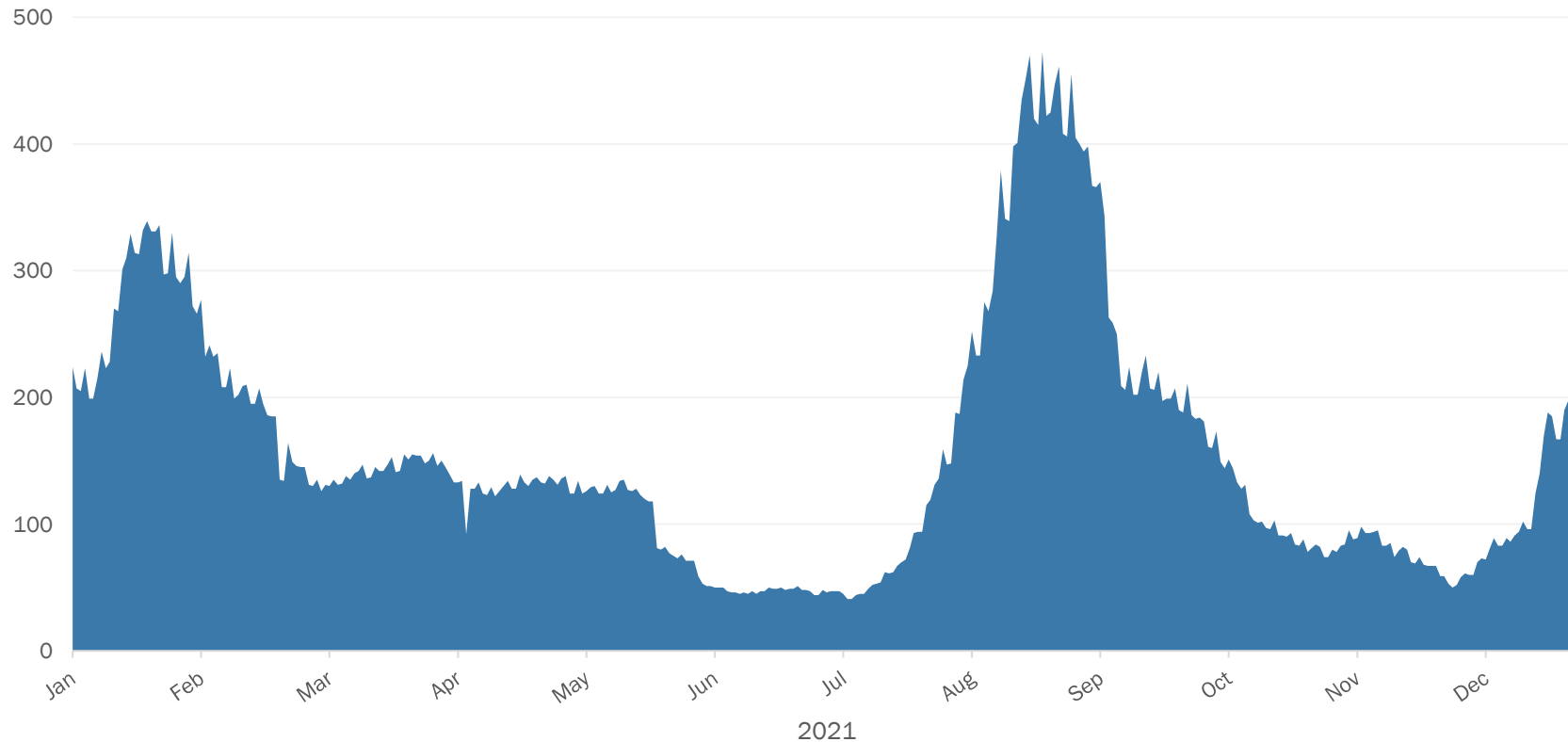


Closure and Capacity Trends in 2021

Daily Tally of Temporary Closures reported by Licensed Providers in 2021

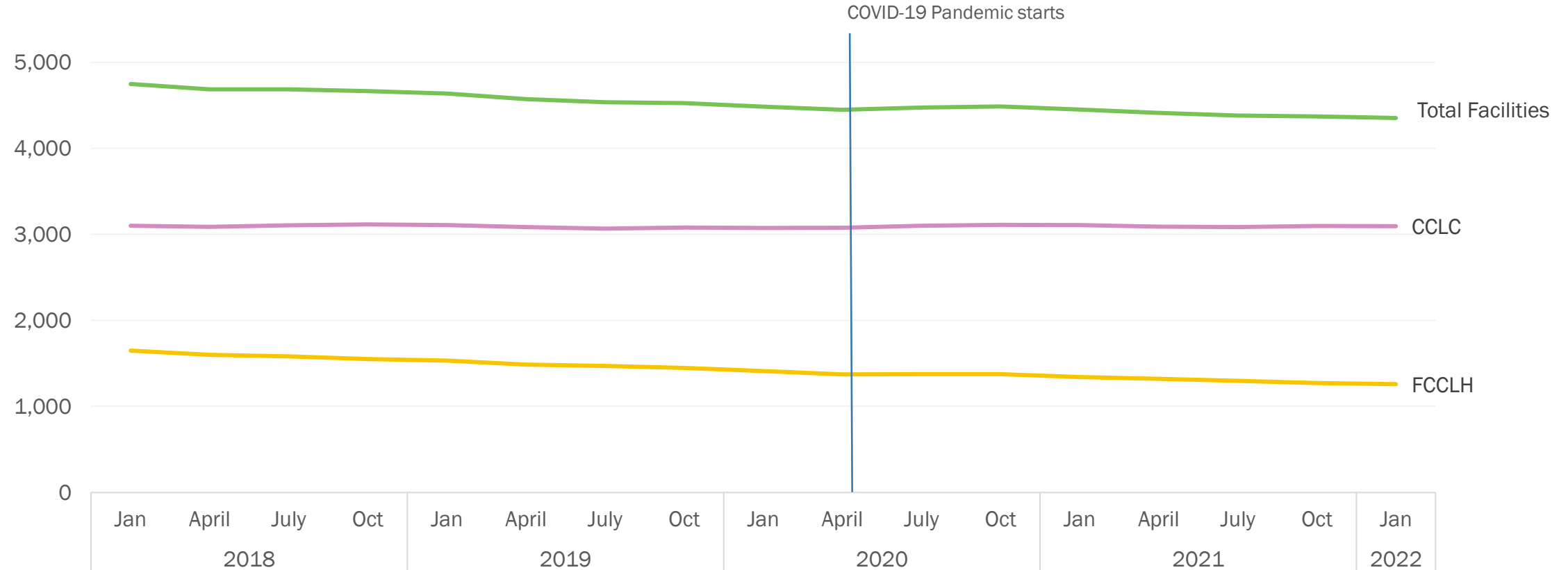
CCLCs & FCCLHs

Closure reasons: COVID-19, Low Enrollment, Public Health Emergency, Staff Availability



Number of Licensed Child Care Providers

Child Care Learning Centers (CCLC) & Family Child Care Learning Homes (FCCLH)

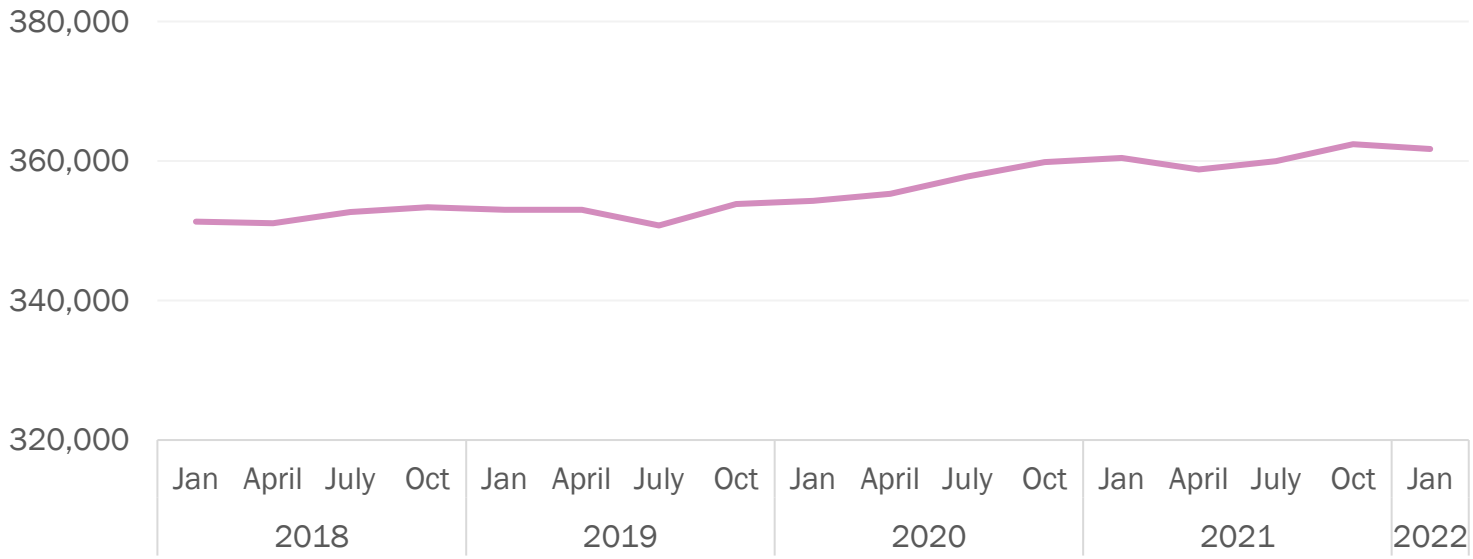


8% overall decrease from Jan 2018 to Jan 2022

- 0.2% decrease for CCLCs
- 24% decrease for FCCLHs

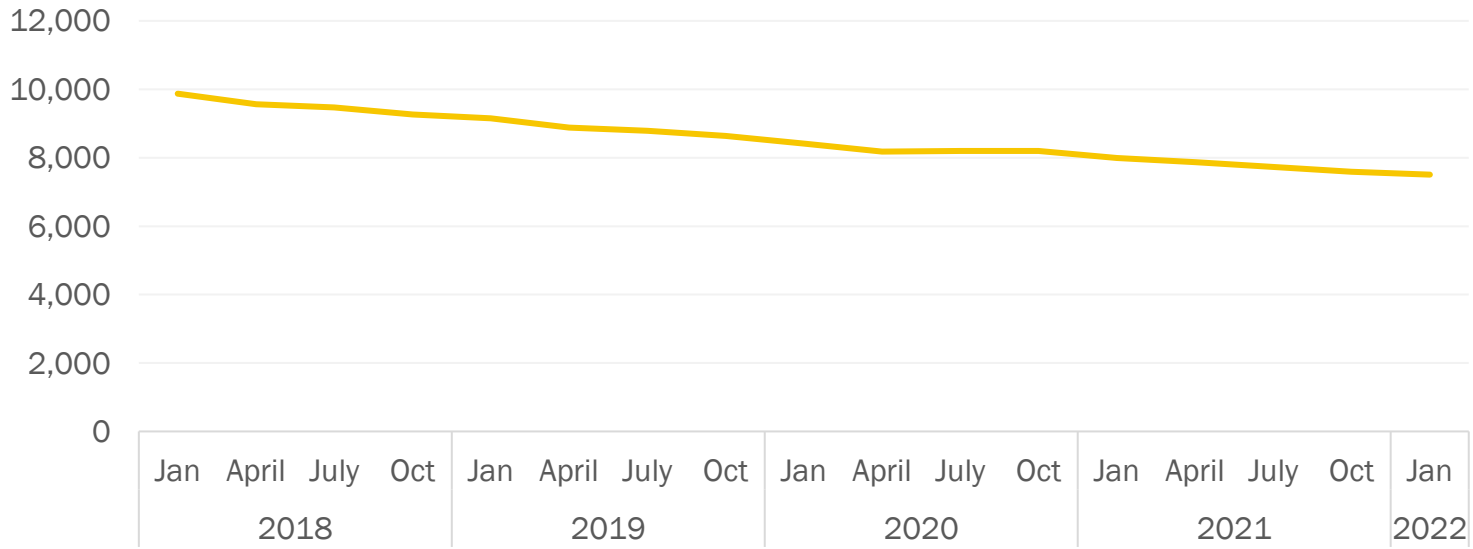


Combined Capacity for CCLCs



The number of CCLCs has relatively remained the same since 2018 but capacity has increased

Combined Capacity for FCCLHs



This downward trend for capacity corresponds with the decrease in the number of open family home providers.



Federal Programs Updates

Elisabetta Kasfir, Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs



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FindHelp



FindHelp is Georgia's Resource and Referral Portal. The *goal* of FindHelp is to reduce barriers and increase access.



Who and how would FindHelp support?

Families

- Easily identify resources and support.
- Self refer to community-based organizations.

Frontline Staff

- Use as a repository for community resources that are verified every 6 months.
- Assist families with identifying appropriate resources and supports, as well as track outcomes.

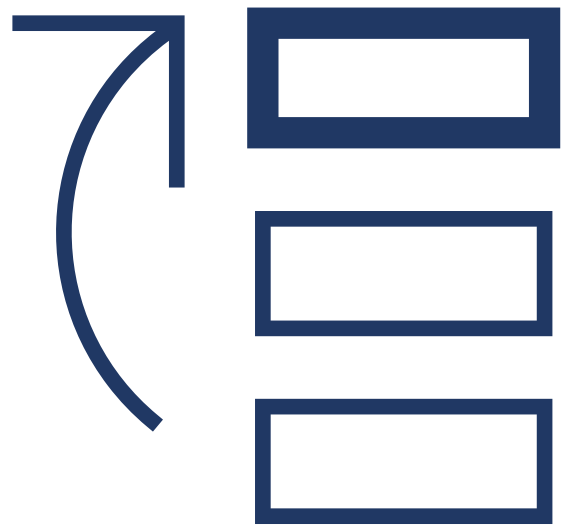
State Agencies

- **No Wrong Door**
 - Provide a unified way for state agencies to support and connect families to resources.
 - Deliver data analytics to support program improvements.



CAPS has a
NEW priority
group for
student parents!





Priority Groups

In addition to meeting eligibility requirements, CAPS requires that a family be a part of one of twelve priority groups to ensure CAPS scholarships go to populations who need them most.



Student Parent Priority Group

To be eligible for the new CAPS **Student Parent Priority Group**, the parent must be enrolled in an eligible educational program, meet income requirements and participate in a state-approved activity.





**What are the
Educational
Programs?**

- High School
- Adult Education
- Vocational Training
- Early Childhood Education Credential
- Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC)
- Technical College Diploma (TCD)
- WorkSource Georgia
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree



Quality Innovations and Partnerships Updates

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships

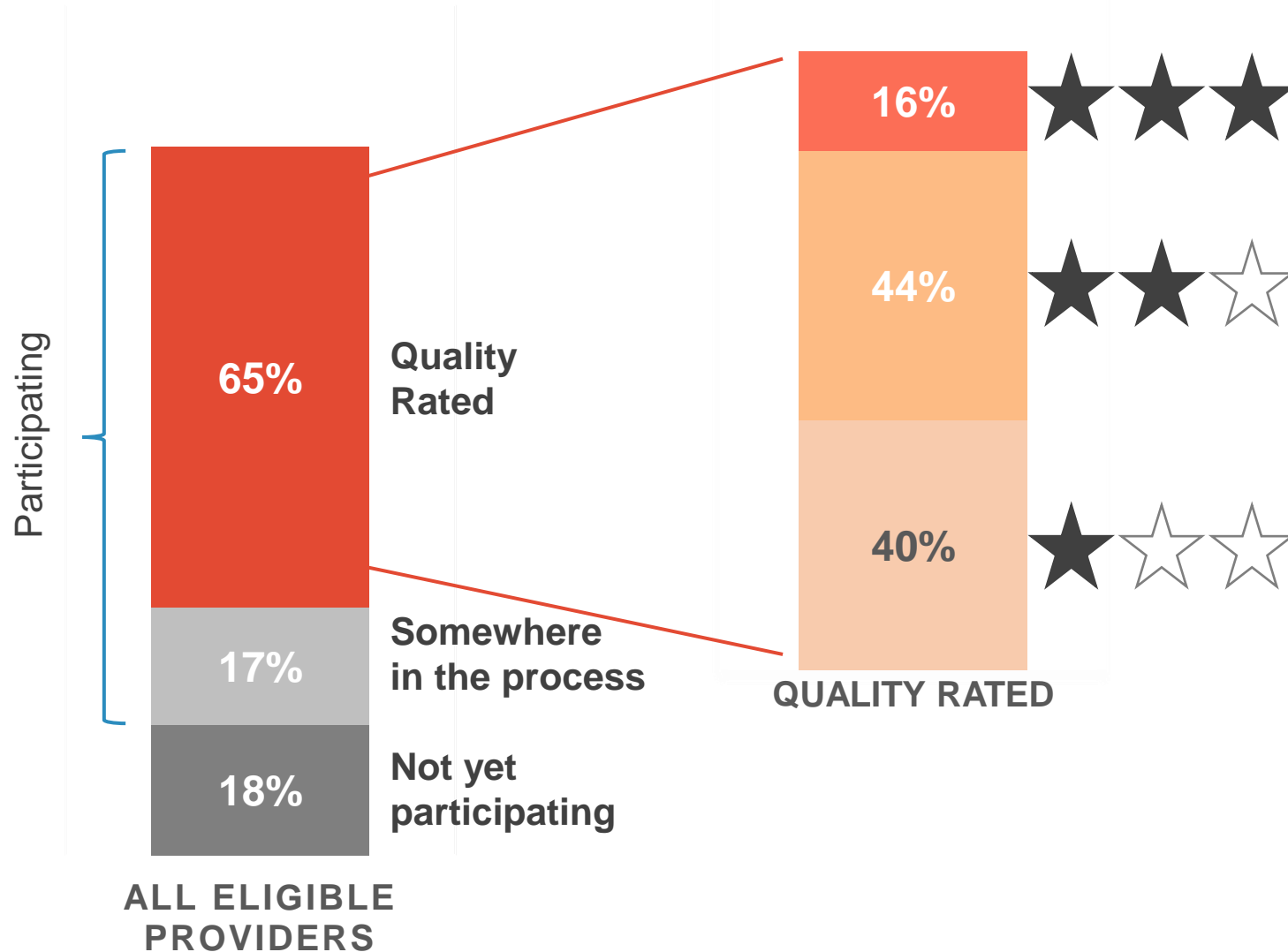


Quality Rated Updates

- Live ERS observations resume with Cohort 3
- ERS re-establish reliability training is in full swing
- Provisional/Probationary Status Successes
 - 128 CAPS providers in probationary status (7 ready to rate)
 - 132 CAPS providers in provisional status (11 ready to rate)
 - Promoted two new positions to oversee the work: Quality Assurance Administrator and Specialist



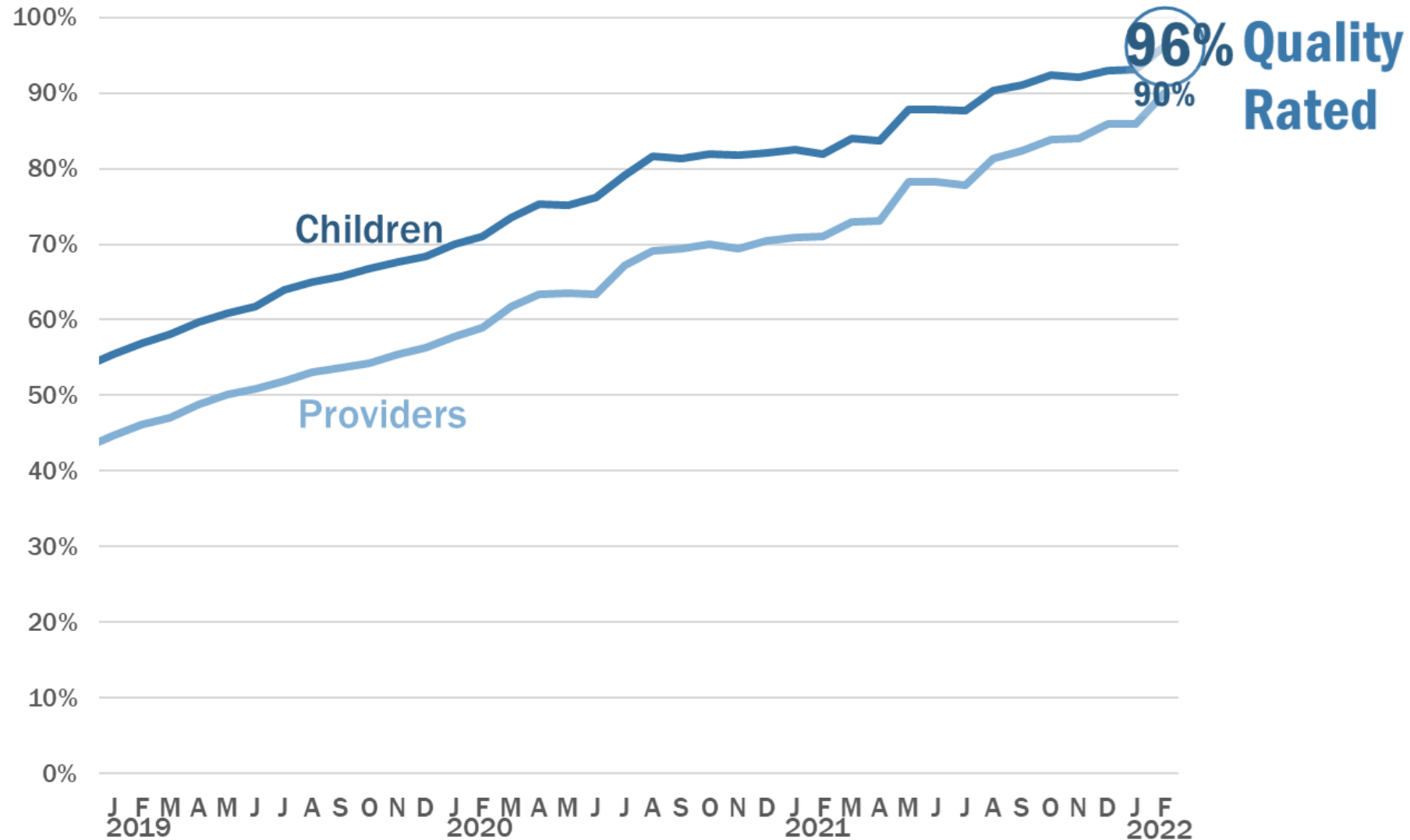
Of Georgia's 4,447 eligible providers, 2,894 are Quality Rated.



The quality of 35% of eligible child care providers is still unknown.



96% of children receiving CAPS are at a Quality Rated provider.



Quality Rated Language and Literacy Endorsement (QRLLE)



- An additional recognition added to the Quality Rated system, available to existing 2- and 3-star Quality Rated programs
- A year-long opportunity to train, encourage, and support child care providers in developing critical pre-reading skills among the birth-to-5 age group
- High-quality professional development complemented by literacy resources for classrooms, a technology grant for the center, and a growth materials package
- An opportunity to learn best practices with other center administrators and teachers
- Includes evaluation component to inform expanding QRLLE and creating additional endorsements



QRLLE Updates

Child Care Learning Center Cohort 2

- Competitive application process
- 168 eligible applications received
- 24 sites selected, 23 currently enrolled
- Orientation took place 5/17/22
- Growth plans submitted March 2023
- Endorsement awarded April 2023

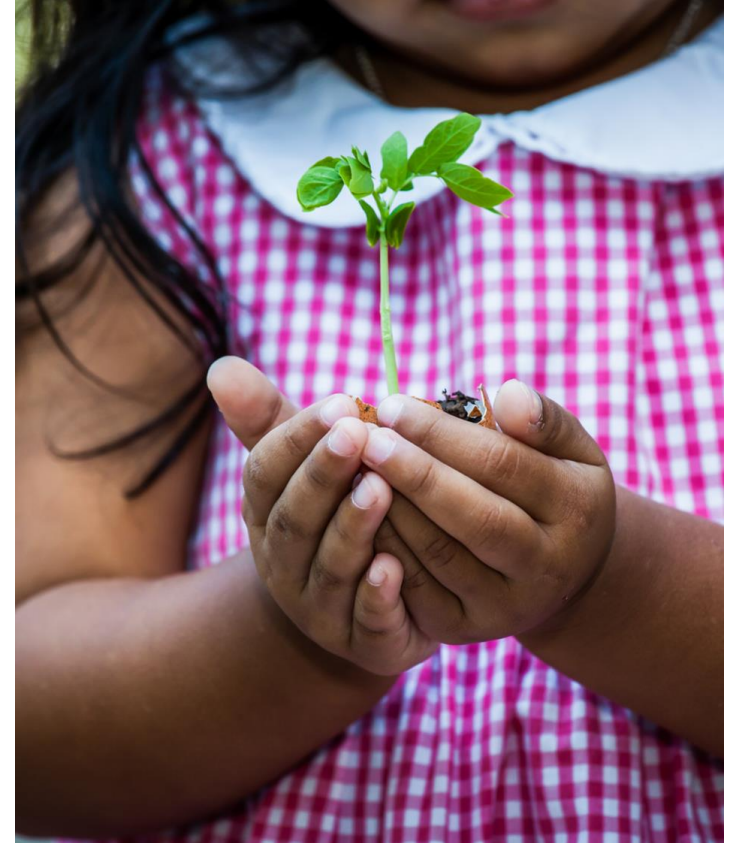
Family Child Care Learning Home Pilot

- Piloting the Endorsement with FCCLH, with a focus on ensuring family providers are well equipped to embed language and literacy practices for young children in mixed-age settings
- 15 providers will be invited to participate
- Endorsement also awarded April 2023



2Gen Grants

- Capacity-Building: \$10,000
- Implementation: \$25,000
- Four years of 2Gen Innovation Grants to date:
 - 2018-19: 3 grantees (PACTT pilot sites) – Capacity-Building only
 - 2019-20: 4 grantees (CCDF) – Capacity-Building and Implementation awards
 - 2020-21: 5 grantees (CCDF)
 - 2021-22: 9 grantees (CCDF and PDG B-5)
 - With PDG funds, work has scaled up significantly
 - First formal evaluation being conducted with partner, GEEARS
- 2022-23: 12 grantees (CCDF and PDG) have been selected



Child Care Engagement Networks



- Monthly meetings hosted and facilitated by DECAL's Community Coordinators
- Purpose: To provide direct supports to providers while also gauging regional and community needs during the pandemic
- Designed to connect providers with resources and supports from DECAL and partnering agencies by using a two-tiered approach:
 - 1) Communication: Newsletters
 - 2) Engagement: Virtual Meetings



EHS-CCP Updates

Restructuring (Staff)

- Hired 5 DECAL Specialists to provide direct services to 5 CCLCs. Specialists are on site at CCLCs supporting staff, enrolled children, and families 4 days per week.
- Formalized Management Structure. Two Managers: Education, Disabilities, & Mental Health and Family Services, ERSEA & Health

Current priorities

- Develop Policy/Procedure manual
- Address CCLC staff shortages, identify new FCCLH partners
- Reach full enrollment (currently 152/184 slots filled)
- Conduct self-assessment (summer 2022)



Research and Policy Analysis Updates

Current Priorities

- Continuing to support the agency with administrative data analyses related to new initiatives and the effects of the pandemic
- Final year (extension) of our CCDBG Research Grant. Developing products, sharing our work, and final reporting of work completed under the grant.

New Staffing

- 3 Research and Policy staff



Head Start Collaboration Office Updates

Allison Setterlind, Georgia Head Start Collaboration Director



Office of Head Start News & Current Events

Office of Head Start National Priorities

- Advancing Equity
- Promoting Pandemic Recovery
- Investing in Workforce
- Reaching more Children & Families

GA Head Start Collaboration Office has a new 5 Year Grant this year

- Opportunity to revisit goals for the DECAL intersections with Head Start

SNAP Eligibility added to the Public Assistance Category

- GA Family Services Forums this month to review GA documentation & develop a better understanding of GA Gateway System.





The following Committee meetings are in session:

Programs and Rules – Oak Conference Room

Budget and Finance – Cypress Conference Room

Quality Innovations and Partnerships – Laurel Conference Room

The Public Comment Period will commence at 1:00 pm.



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Welcome to the Board of Early Care
and Learning

Public Comment

May 19, 2022



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Board Meeting Dates **2022**

- ~~February 17, 2022~~
- ~~May 19, 2022~~
- August 25, 2022
- November 17, 2022

