

CROSS AGENCY CHILD COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Preschool
Development
Grant
Birth through Five

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IN THIS EDITION:



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES, pg. 1-2

Introduction and details regarding developmental milestones.

NEW WORKFORCE PROJECTS, pg. 3

Details about the new workforce projects using ARP funds that were distributed to DECAL.

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

Developmental milestones are skills that most children do by a certain age, such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, or waving “bye bye.” The CDC’s *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* developmental milestones checklists are a critical tool in tracking young children’s development and determining whether a child may need extra support or intervention. Through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), Georgia used several pathways to share information about developmental milestones with families, particularly those in one of the seven identified underserved populations (children in poverty, children and families in rural areas, children experiencing homelessness, dual-language learners, children with developmental delays and/or disabilities, children in foster care, and infants and toddlers).

Developmental Milestones Website:

Through PDG, DECAL established its own Developmental Milestones website (<https://development.dec.al.ga.gov>)—a family-friendly site that allows parents and caregivers to access information about developmental milestones, track their child’s development, and learn more about acting early in Georgia. The site is currently available in English and Spanish, and will be available in Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese by the end of the grant. Since its launch, the site has had over 4,000 users.

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES CONT.

Family Peer Ambassador Program:

DECAL has also used its network of over 90 Family Peer Ambassadors to help share the importance of monitoring children's development. Family Peer Ambassadors are volunteers with young children who attend events in their communities and use social media to share information about family-friendly resources such as DECAL's developmental milestones website. Over the course of the PDG, Family Peer Ambassadors have attended over 175 events and reached an estimated 4,200 families. They are a critical tool in reaching all Georgia's families, especially those who may not have easy access to information about child development.

DECAL plans to continue using its network of Family Peer Ambassadors to share information about developmental milestones with families in their communities. It will also explore new ways, such as social media campaigns, to ensure that all families in Georgia—regardless of demographics—have access to information they can use to monitor and promote their children's healthy development.



NEW WORKFORCE PROJECTS

Recently, DECAL announced plans for use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds that have been distributed to the agency. The plan includes projects that are designed to meet the needs of three important groups: providers, the workforce, and families. A significant portion of the funds will be used to provide ongoing support to Georgia's early learning workforce, with a focus on recruitment and retention of skilled, well-equipped, early learning professionals.


Through ARP funds, DECAL will focus on increasing access to the Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials for those entering the workforce. This will include increasing access to CDA content in high school Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs as well as recruiting more bilingual individuals to participate in CDA training opportunities. DECAL will focus on supporting more Georgia professionals to become CDA observers, an important part of the CDA process. Currently, in some areas of the state, access to a CDA observer is limited, making it more difficult for individuals to complete the final observation and assessment to earn the CDA. Through ARP funds, DECAL will recruit, train, and support a cadre of CDA observers to support areas of the state where access is limited.


DECAL will also focus on providing more financial supports for existing members of the workforce who are interested in continuing their education by attaining higher levels of degrees and credentials in early childhood education. Other areas of focus include providing more targeted supports to professionals working in school age programs and supporting providers in strengthening their business practices. More information about ARP plans can be found [here](#).



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 404-656-5957

 preschooldevelopmentgrant@uga.edu
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11/14/22
CACC MEETING

11/03/22
CAFC MEETING