Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

August 27, 2020



DECAL August 27 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



Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Approve 8-27-20 agenda
- Approve 5-14-20 minutes



Commissioner's Updates

Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner



Office Operations

June 4: DECAL Main Office Reopened

- DECAL's main office at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 754 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334 began Phase 1 of reopening.
- Throughout Phase 1, DECAL's main office will be staffed with a skeleton crew (including a member of the Commissioner's Executive Cabinet) to receive visitors on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.
- DECAL staff remains remote and productive.



STABLE Funding Update

All Providers			
Receiving Funds	3,764		
Percent of Eligible Providers Receiving Funds	85%		
Total Paid	\$38,357,327		

STABLE Funding Update (continued)

Allocation of Funding for All Providers	Percentage of Total Funding	Amount of Funding
Retaining or Hiring Staff	42%	\$15.9M
Classroom Materials & Supplies	13%	\$5.0M
Food	4%	\$1.5M
Facilities	24%	\$9.1M
Supplies to Adhere to CDC Guidelines for COVID-19	9%	\$3.5M
Tuition Relief for Families	8%	\$3.3M



STABLE Funding Update (continued)

Child Care Learning Centers (CCLC)			
Receiving Funds	2,683		
Percent of Eligible Providers Receiving Funds	87%		
Total Paid	\$37,018,307		
Allocation of Funding – Top 2 Categories for CCLCs			
Retaining or Hiring Staff	43%		
Facilities	23%		



STABLE Funding Update (continued)

Family Child Care Learning Homes (FCCLH)			
Receiving Funds	1,081		
Percent of Eligible Providers Receiving	79%		
Funds	/9/0		
Total Paid	\$1,339,020		
Allocation of Funding – Top 2 Categories for FCCLHs			
Facilities	35%		
Classroom Materials &	19%		
Supplies	1970		



STABLE Grant Survey

- Surveyed recipients on the impact of COVID-19 including program enrollment, use of STABLE funding, and current program needs
- Conducted by Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG)
 49% response rate, with 1,588 responses
- Analyzing data to inform decisions for remaining CARES Act funding
- Survey results should be available mid-September



SOLVE

Supporting Onsite Learning for Virtual Education

- Funding Between \$17 and \$19 million provided by Governor Kemp's Office.
- Will provide financial assistance for school age students of public school systems that are using a virtual learning model.
- Will award scholarships to help pay for care, supervision and support during the school day for students engaged in virtual learning and are enrolled in child care while parents work.



SOLVE Eligibility: Students, Parents, and Programs

- Children ages 5-12 years who attend public school system using ONLY distance learning.
- Family's income may not exceed 85% of the state median income and they must be working or engaged in an approved activity (i.e., higher education).
- Family may select from an approved list of programs, including licensed child care centers, family child care learning homes, or programs that have day camp exemption from DECAL.
- Family will receive scholarship for three months (but can be renewed if the school system remains in virtual learning).
- Family not be required to pay a family fee but may be charged the differential between the CAPS rate and the rate of the provider.

SOLVE Process: Parents and Programs

- Families apply through Georgia Gateway.
- DECAL CAPS staff will determine eligibility and process the application.
- Providers will receive payment through current CAPS payment system.
 Providers not currently receiving payments from DECAL must register and provide proper documentation to receive payments.
- Providers wanting to provide care for school age children engaged in virtual learning (and benefit from SOLVE program) but are not yet licensed or exempt must apply through DECAL's Child Care Services division.



Finance, Legislation, & Administration Updates

Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance & Administration



Finance Update – SFY 2020 Summary

Data as of June 30th	Budget	Expenditures*	Remaining Balance	% Remaining
BY PROGRAM				
Child Care Services	\$434,410,851	\$434,410,849	\$2	0%
Pre-K + (HS)	\$378,107,514	\$378,107,514	\$0	0%
Quality Initiatives	\$51,049,132	\$51,049,130	\$2	0%
Nutrition	\$147,884,352	\$147,884,351	\$1	0%
Total Expenditures	\$1,011,451,849	\$1,011,451,844	\$5	0%

BY FUNDING SOURCE				
State General	\$61,223,188	\$61,223,188	\$0	0%
State Lottery	\$377,933,046	\$377,933,046	\$0	0%
Federal	\$571,499,178	\$571,499,174	\$4	0%
Other	\$796,437	\$796,436	\$1	0%
Total Funds	\$1,011,451,849	\$1,011,451,844	\$5	0%

^{*} Includes encumbrances.

Finance Update SFY 2020 Year End Budget Summary



AFY2021 and FY2022 – Budget Request

Department of Early Care and Learning	Current FY21 Budget	Proposed AFY21 Budget	Proposed FY22 Budget	
BY PROGRAM				
Child Care Services	\$320,518,848	\$320,518,848	\$320,518,848	
Pre-K + (HS)	\$378,826,314	\$378,826,314	\$378,826,314	
Quality Initiatives	\$57,827,234	\$57,827,234	\$57,827,234	
Nutrition	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	\$148,000,000	
Total Expenses	\$905,172,396	\$905,172,396	\$905,172,396	

BY FUNDING SOURCE				
State General	\$54,226,235	\$54,226,235	\$54,226,235	
State Lottery	\$378,651,314	\$378,651,314	\$378,651,314	
Federal	\$471,959,847	\$471,959,847	\$471,959,847	
Other	\$335,000	\$335,000	\$335,000	
Total Funds	\$905,172,396	\$905,172,396	\$905,172,396	

Finance Update AFY 2021 and FY2022 Budget Request







Emergency Feeding Stats Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children

March – June 2020



49 Sponsors



756 Approved Sites



5,031,243 Meals Served



62 Counties Served



Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports Updates

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



Pre-K Instructional Models

2020 - 2021



Traditional

Pre-K is provided in the regular classroom setting. All students attend each day on site.



Hybrid

Pre-K is provided via a combination of traditional classroom and distance learning.



Full Distance Learning

Pre-K is provided through full distance learning. Instruction is a combination of virtual learning and remote hands-on learning.

Pre-K TOTY Finalists 2020-2021 — Public School



Heather Melillo
West End Elementary
Floyd County



Tricia Floyd
Maxwell Pre-K
Gwinnett County



Deana Snowden
Demorest Elementary
Habersham County



Pre-K TOTY Finalists 2020-2021 -Childcare Center



Alderine Healey
YMCA Paulding Early Learning Center
Paulding County



Genevieve Rodriguez
Tabula Rasa, The Language Academy
Gwinnett County



D'Arri Moore
Andrew and Walter Young YMCA
Fulton County



TOTY Next Steps

Early September

- Virtual Interview
- One week of completed lesson plans submitted for review
- Small group and large group instruction reviewed and scored

Late September/Early October

- 2 Winners –1 public school/1 private child care center announced virtually
- \$3,000 award per winner; \$3,000 for classroom makeover; \$500 to school for substitutes and travel

Pre-K Week October 5 – 9th



Preschool Development Grant Updates (PDG)

- Cross Agency Child Council
- Pandemic Impact Research
 - STABLE Survey
 - Focus Groups
 - Early Childhood System Survey





Quality Innovations and Partnerships Updates

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships



2020 Quality Rated/CAPS Recap

2020 Goal: ALL eligible CAPS providers must be star rated (either 1, 2, or 3 stars) by December 31, 2020 to continue to receive CAPS funding.

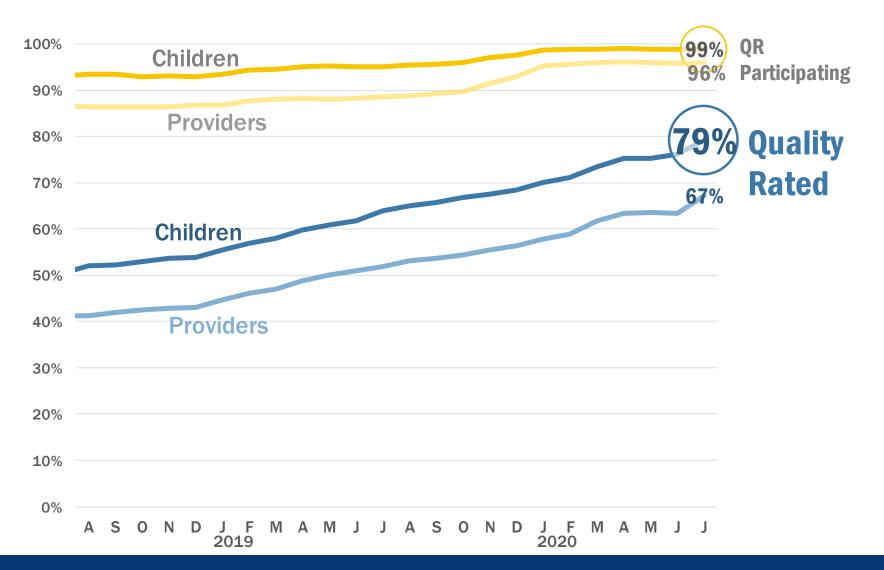
To manage observations, Quality Rated instituted "cohorts."

Before COVID-19
Pandemic, DECAL
reached considerable
success in meeting goal.

Goal has been extended until at least **December 31, 2021**.



79% of children receiving CAPS or QRSG are at a Quality Rated provider.



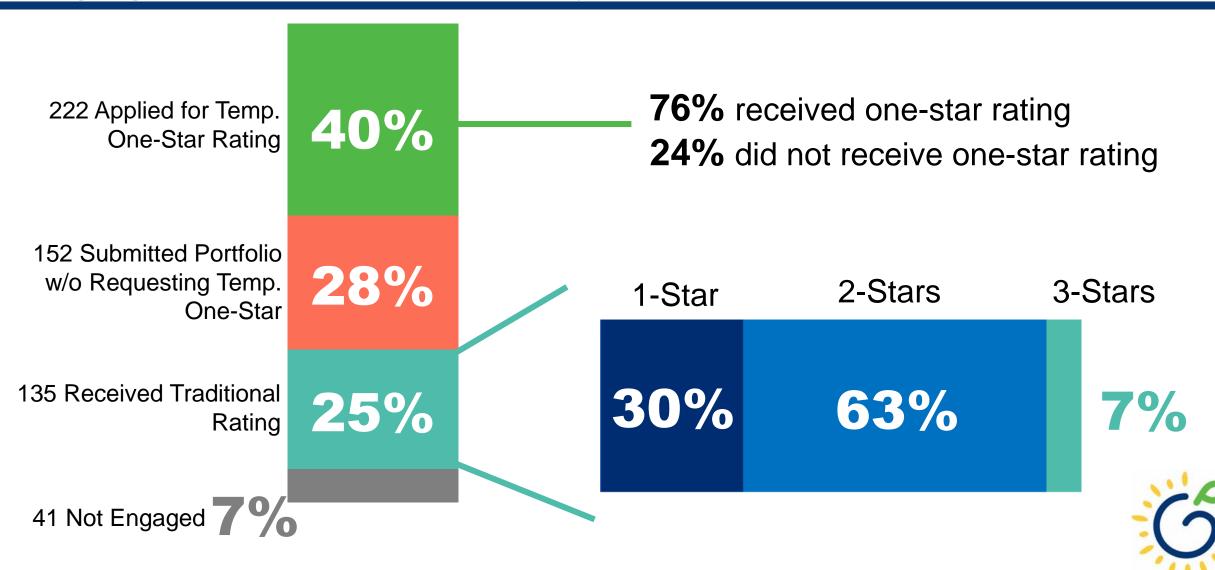


Cohorts 1 and 2

- Includes providers who signed up for an observation between February 1 – June 30.
- Quality Rated offered providers unable to be observed a "temporary one-star" based on their portfolio score.
 - Had to maximize possible portfolio points.
- 93% of providers who signed up to be rated before the pandemic still pursued a rating.
 - 56% of providers achieved a rating.



Engagement with Quality Rated: Cohorts 1 and 2



Quality Rated Next Steps

- Announce 2021 Cohorts
- Developing Alternative Route to Rating (ARR)
 - Will include the Portfolio Option for Cohorts 3 and 4
 - Rating will be good for one year
 - Expands options so that providers can achieve two stars
 - Formal announcement in early September

Allows Quality Rated to continue momentum.





Provider Supports



Central East Community Partnership Weekly Resources

August 7th, 2020

Central East Region Counties: Baldwin, Burke, Butts, Columbia, DeKalb, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lincoln, McDuffie, Morgan, Newton, Putnam, Richmond, Rockdale, Taliaferro, Walton, Warren, Wilkes

Community Supports

Two-Generation Innovation Grantees:

- Black Child Development Institute Atlanta
- Gordon State College
- Heard County Community Partnership
- Children and Family Program at Kennesaw State University
- Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia





COVID-19 Research & Data Points

Randy Hudgins, Director of Research & Policy Analysis



DECAL COVID-19 Research

- DECAL is collecting, trending, and visualizing administrative data to support program and agency decision making.
- Work includes consulting with national ECE and public health experts and industry leaders to contextualize the current public health crisis to support child care.

Data Efforts

- 1. Ongoing analyses
- 2. Surveys and focus group development
- 3. Daily reporting
- 4. IT enhancements

Data Uses

- 1. Understanding the Impact of COVID-19
 - Developing research agenda to understand impact of pandemic and system needs
 - Ongoing review of reporting methodology and statewide data

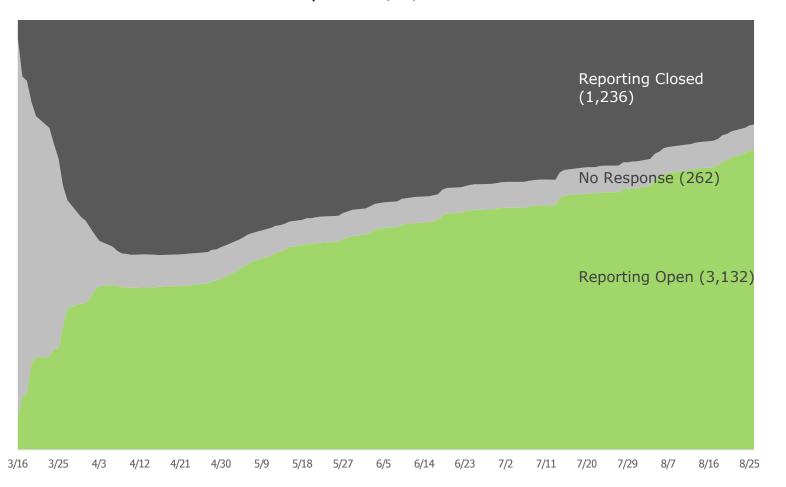
2. Informing Decision Making

- Provide guidance to Governor's Office
- Conducting on site visits
- Revise and develop policy



Self-reported temporary status in DECAL KOALA

Reported Temporary Closure Status of Licensed Child Care during COVID-19 Updated: 8/26/2020

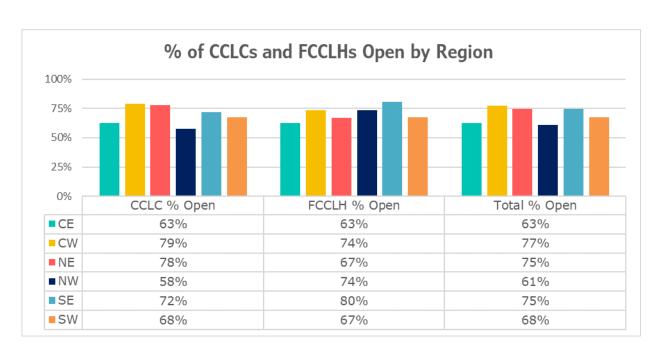


27% reporting temporarily closed

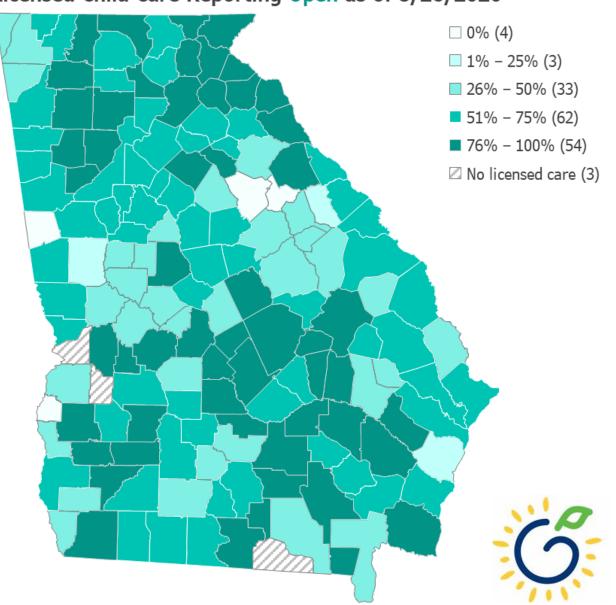
70% reporting open



Self-reported temporary status in DECAL KOALA

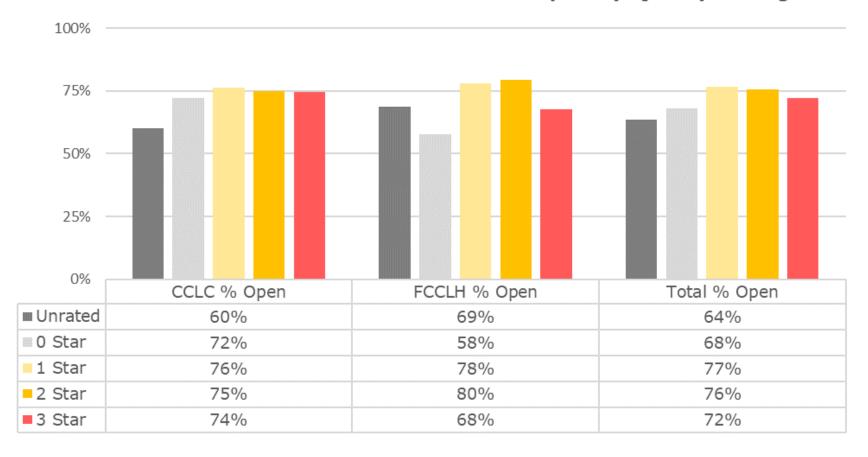


Licensed Child Care Reporting Open as of 8/26/2020



"Open" By Quality Rated Status and Provider Type

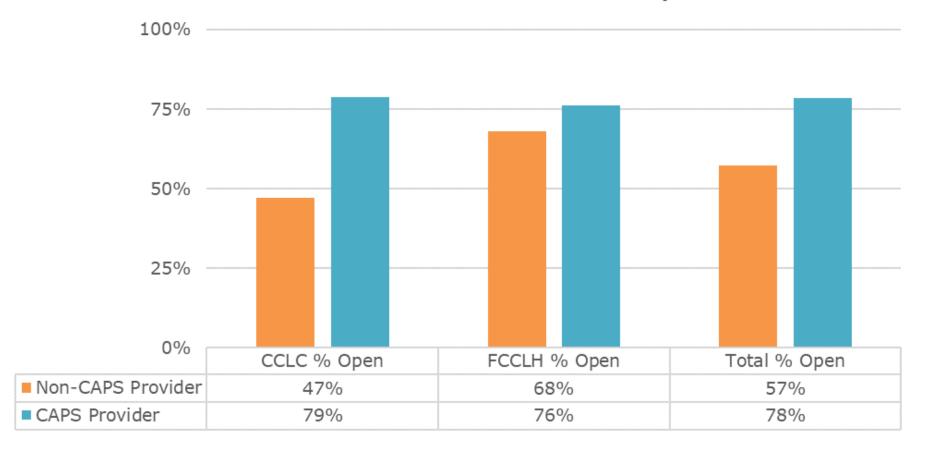
% of Licensed Child Care Providers Open by Quality Rating





"Open" by Providers Serving CAPS

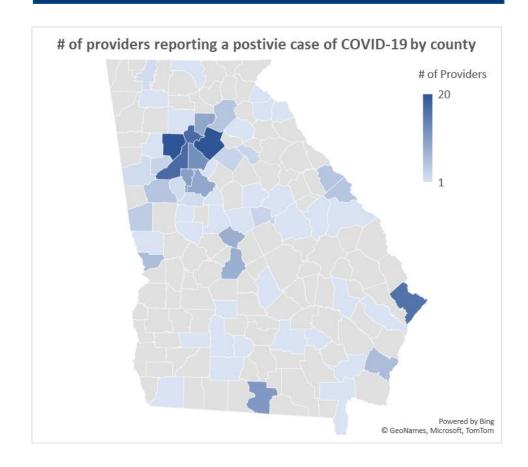
% of Licensed Child Care Providers Open - CAPS

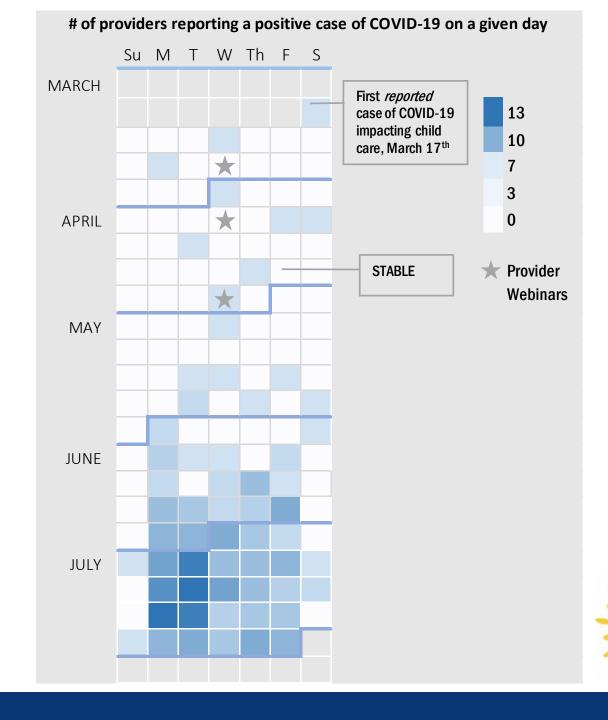




Child Care Services – Provider Contact Log

March 17th – July 31st



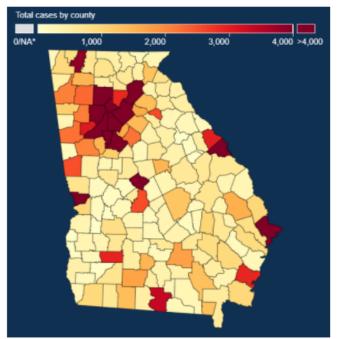


http://www.decal.ga.gov/BFTS/Covid19.aspx

Georgia DPH COVID-19 - Daily Status

Report as of 08/25/2020 02:50 PM as reported by DPH

Confirmed Cases by County



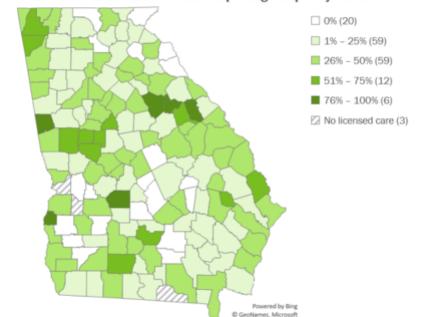
For more details go to Georgia Department of Public Health

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases	# Cases	Percent
Total	258,354	100%
Hospitalized	23,717	9.18%
Deaths	5,262	2.04%

Georgia DECAL COVID-19 - Daily Report

Report as of 08/25/2020 08:32 AM as reported by DECAL

Licensed Child Care Providers Reporting Temporary Closures



Licensed Child Care Temporary Closures	# Closed	Percent
Centers	965	30%
Homes	307	22%
Total	1,272	27%

Daily DECAL Public COVID Report



Federal Programs Updates

Elisabetta Kasfir, Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs



Overview of CAPS Updates



Essential Services Workforce Priority Group



Supports for Child Care Programs



Supports for Families Enrolled in CAPS



CAPS Virtual Lobby

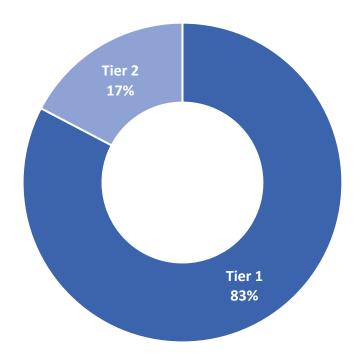




Essential Services Workforce Priority Group

- ESW Priority Group Status
 - Expanded from 500 to 1,000 slots
 - Currently serving Tier 1 and Tier 2 job categories
- ESW Resources and Information
 - Complete eligibility requirements available on <u>caps.decal.ga.gov</u>.
 - Online referrals for the ESW priority group can be submitted via <u>QualityRated.org</u>.

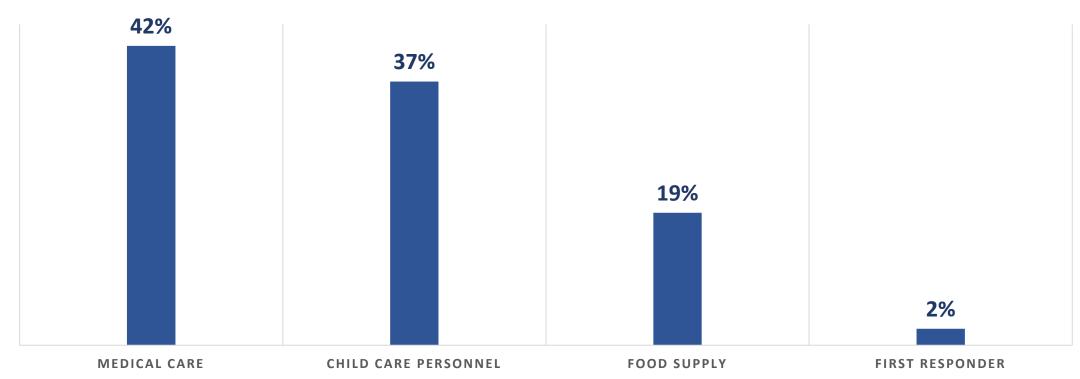
APPROVED FAMILIES IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES WORKFORCE TIERS





Essential Services Workforce Priority Group

Approved Families in Essential Services Workforce by Group



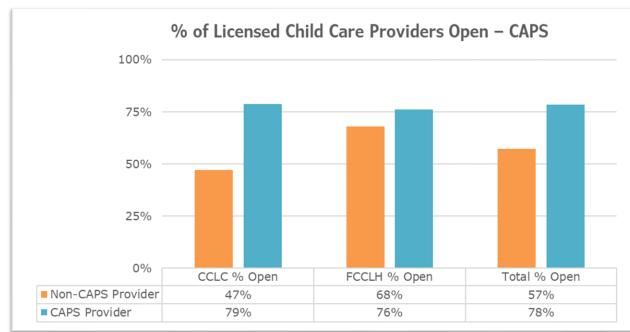


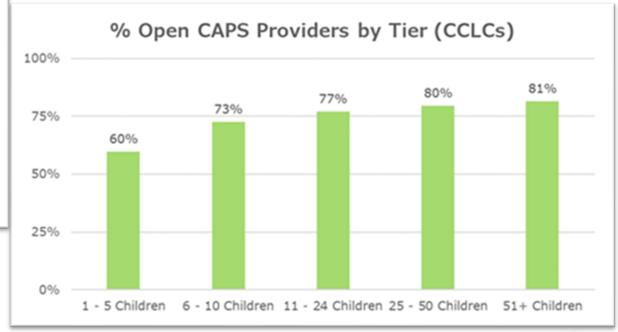


Emergency Payment Policy

- Payment based on enrollment vs. attendance for open <u>and</u> closed providers
- Providers able to bill on active scholarship with the highest rate for any child who attended at least once since March 1, 2020
- Supporting school-age children completing distance learning at a child care program





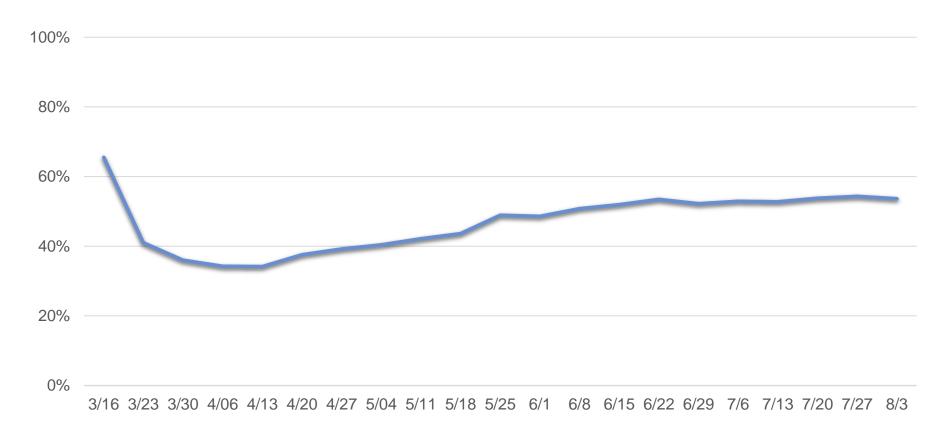






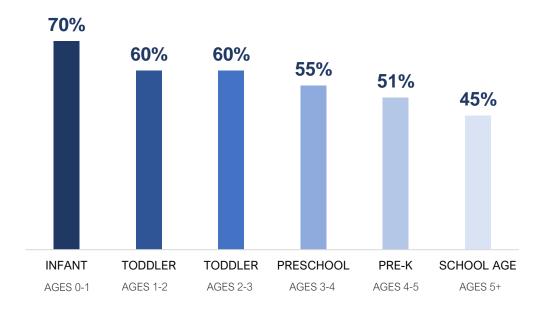
Percent of CAPS Scholarships Paid for Children Marked as Present

Out of All Scholarships Billed by Open Providers

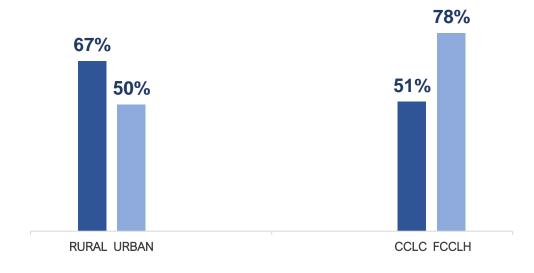




Children Marked as Present by Age Group



Children Marked as Present by Urbanicity and Provider Type









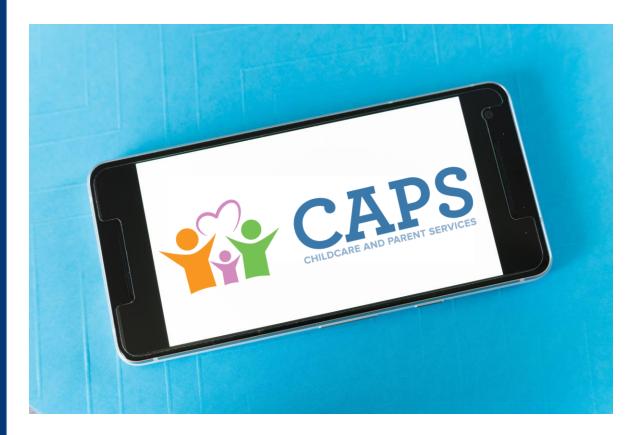
Supports for Families Enrolled in CAPS

Emergency Eligibility Policy

State-approved activity requirement waived for affected families

CAPS Virtual Lobby

- Expanding channels of communication between CAPS staff and families, providers, and stakeholders.
- More information coming soon!





Child Care Services Updates

Pam Stevens, Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services



Child Care Services Proposed Rule Changes

October 1, 2020



Chapters Affected

CCLC

- 591-1-1-.15 Food Service and Nutrition
- 591-1-1-.16 Governing Body and Licenses
- 591-1-1-.17 Hygiene
- 591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting
- 591-1-1-.32 Supervision

FCCLH

- 290-2-3-.04 Requirements for Applications and Licenses
- 290-2-3-.07 Staffing and Supervision
- 290-2-3-.10 Nutrition and Food Services
- 290-2-3-.11 Health, Safety, and Discipline
- 290-2-3-.14 Reporting



CCLC Rule Book



591-1-1-.15 Food Service and Nutrition

- .15(2) Feeding of Infants and Children
- .15(2)(c) Requirements for introduction of solid food for children less than 1 (physician and parent)
- .15(2)(f) Food size requirements for infants and toddlers
- .15(2)(g) Preventative measures for choking
- .15(6)(g) Drinking water available to all children
- .15(7) Broadened restrictions on types, sizes, and manner of foods served; changed age requirements from 3 to 4
- .15(8) Food of no nutritional value made into stand alone rule





Infant Feeding Plan

INTRODUCTION OF SOLID FOODS

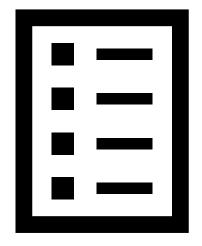
	sed with the child	's primary caregiv	<u> </u>	met appropriate	0 /	ner than four months. Has the
100ds?	Yes []	No []	Parent initials.			
The child has	reached the follo	wing developmen	tal skills:			
Can hold his/her head steady?			Yes []	No []		
Opens mouth/leans forward in anticipation of food offered?				Yes []	No []	
Closes lips around a spoon?				Yes []	No []	
Transfers food from front of the tongue to the back and swallows?				Yes []	No []	
Instructions f	or the introduction	n of solid foods				
		_				

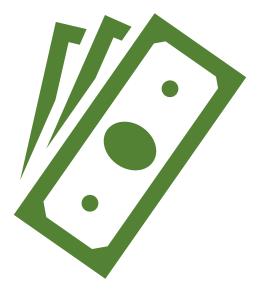


591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & Licenses

.16(e) – License Fees

- Annual requirement
- Specifies fee amounts
- Details late fee and revocation requirements for failure to pay







591-1-1-.17 Hygiene

- 17(4) Contagious Diseases broadened to include not allowing Children or Parents into the program who have symptoms of contagious disease, virus or illness
- Specifically references COVID-19





591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting

- .29(1) Child Abuse/Neglect 24-hour reporting requirement; requires reporting to DFCS and to DECAL that a report was made
- .29(2) Communicable Diseases reference to COVID-19 and any illnesses identified during a public health emergency be reported to DECAL and local County Health Department as required by DPH
- .29(3) Required Reports added operating status changes







591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

.32(7) - Supervision

- Appropriate to individual age, needs and capabilities of each child
- Expanded requirements for activities, transportation, transitions, etc.
- Ability to see and hear children at all times
- Mealtime supervision seated and within an arm's length away for children thirty-six (36) months old or younger





- National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs
- Guidance from
 - Caring for Our Children
 - The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
 - The American Public Health Association (APHA)
 - The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC)



"Choking is a **leading cause** of morbidity and mortality among children, especially those aged 3 years or younger."

American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement

Prioritizing Children's Safety during Mealtimes

- Adjust mealtime routines so staff can focus only on children during the meal or snack – lay out rest mats before or after lunch while children listen to a story, do yoga, play with table top toys, or for older toddlers, help clean tables and chairs.
- Use feeding chairs for toddlers who are not accustomed to sitting at a tables
- Position tables so that staff can sit between tables and easily see and reach all children
- Adjust staff break schedules to prevent rushed mealtimes
- When possible, have additional staff in the classroom to assist with transitions



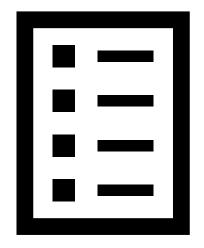
FCCLH Rule Book

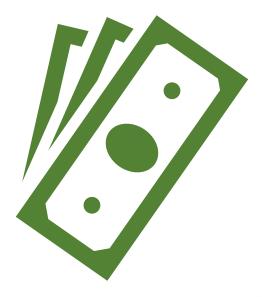


290-2-3-.04 Requirements for Applications and Licenses

.04(1)(f) – License Fees

- Annual requirement
- Specifies fee amounts
- Details late fee and revocation requirements for failure to pay







290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision

.07(17) – Supervision

- Appropriate to individual age, needs and capabilities of each child
- Defined requirements for activities, transportation, transitions, etc.
- Defined supervision
- Mealtime supervision seated and within an arm's length away for children thirty-six (36) months old or younger



290-2-3-.10 Nutrition and Food Services

- .10(1) Compliance with USDA Nutritional Guidelines
- .10(2) Non-nutritional Food and Drinks
- .10(3) Infant Feeding Plan Requirements
- .10(3)(a) Hold infants for feeding and not prop bottles
- .10(3)(b) No honey to children under 1





290-2-3-.10 Nutrition and Food Services

- .10(3)(c) Requirements for introduction of solid food for children less than 1 (physician and parent)
- .10(3)(d) Assist and encourage self feeding
- .10(3)(e) Designated space for breastfeeding mothers
- .10(3)(f) Food size requirements for infants and toddlers
- .10(3)(g) Preventative measures for choking





290-2-3-.10 Nutrition and Food Services

.10(4) – Baby bottle and formula requirements

.10(5) – Feeding chair requirements





290-2-3-.10 Nutrition and Food Services

- **.10(6)** Weekly menu posted and maintained
- .10(7)(a) Serve scheduled meals and snacks
- .10(7)(b) Serve food in appropriate dishes
- .10(7)(c) Encourage but don't force children to eat
- .10(7)(d) Food not used for punishment or reward
- .10(7)(e) Assist and encourage good nutritional habits
- .10(7)(f) Serving hot foods
- .10(7)(g) Drinking water available





290-2-3-.10 Nutrition and Food Services

- .10(8) Restrictions on types, sizes, and manner of foods served; ages for requirements
- .10(9) Modified diet requirements
- .10(10) Uneaten food requirements
- .10(11) Food safe for consumption



290-2-3-.10 Nutrition and Food Services

- .10(12) Food preparation areas
- .10(13) Refrigeration and freezer requirements
- .10(14) Food storage areas
- .10(15) Containers for food storage
- .10(16) Storing cleaning materials separate from food
- .10(17) Garbage requirements
- .10(18) Hygiene requirements for food service
- .10(19) Dishwashing requirements





290-2-3-.11 Health, Safety, and Discipline

.11(1)(a) – Contagious Diseases – broadened to include not allowing Parents, Staff, or persons being supervised by Staff into the Home who have symptoms of contagious disease, virus or illness

Specifically references COVID-19





290-2-3-.14 Reporting

- .14(1) Required Reports added operating status changes
- .14(2) Criminal Records matched wording in CCLC
- .14(3) Child Abuse/Neglect requires reporting to DFCS and to DECAL that a report was made
- .14(4) Communicable Diseases reference to COVID-19 and any illnesses identified during a public health emergency be reported to DECAL and local County Health Department as required by DPH
- .14(5) Annual Reports







Questions?



Welcome to the Board of Early Care and Learning

Public Hearing

August 27, 2020



Board Action On:

Rules and Regulations for Child Care Learning Centers, Rule Chapter 591-1-1

- Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.15 Food Service & Nutrition
- Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.16 Governing Body & Licenses
- Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.17 Hygiene
- Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.29 Required Reporting
- Proposed Amendment of Rule 591-1-1-.32 Staff:Child Ratios & Supervision

Board Action On:

Rules and Regulations for Family Child Care Learning Homes, Rule Chapter 290-2-3

- Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.04 Requirements for Applications & Licenses
- Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.07 Staffing & Supervision
- Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.10 Nutrition & Food Services
- Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.11 Health, Safety & Discipline
- Proposed Amendment of Rule 290-2-3-.14 Reporting

AFY2021 and FY2022 – Budget Request

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Total Funds	\$905,172,396	\$905,172,396	\$905,172,396		

Finance Update AFY 2021 and FY2022 Budget Request



Proposed Board Meeting Dates 2021

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



Board Meeting Dates 2020

- February 20, 2020
- May 14, 2020
- August 27, 2020
- November 19, 2020



