



GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR
EARLY CARE + LEARNING

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022





WHO WE ARE

The Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning is an independent 501(c)3 that supports the efforts of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). In 2017, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation enabling the foundation to form. Shortly after Governor Nathan Deal signed the legislation into law, the nonprofit was created and began making strategic investments to improve and expand high-quality education.

OUR MISSION

To support access to high-quality early childhood education to Georgia's youngest learners and their families, providers, and teachers through established strategic investments, collaborations, and partnerships to equip Georgia's current and future workforce.

OUR VISION

To provide the best beginnings possible for all of Georgia's children.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Research has shown that every dollar invested in high-quality early education saves, on average, \$13 later in reduced crime rates, lower demand for social services, and increased tax revenues. Investing in early childhood education is vital to the success and stability of individuals and our communities.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, AMY M. JACOBS

I am pleased to report that the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning continues to successfully support the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's (DECAL) goals and priorities. During FY22, the Foundation raised and leveraged private philanthropic dollars to enhance DECAL's programs that supported Georgia's child care providers, early childhood educators, and families.

When the Foundation was created in 2017, one of our goals was to provide small grants to help child care providers recover from natural disasters. Little did we know that in 2018 we would be called on to do just that in response to devastation caused by Hurricane Michael. Since then, I am proud of the ways the Foundation has supported child care providers, especially during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.



We provided providers with funding and PPE materials and helped essential workers pay for child care so they could continue to work supporting our communities. We certainly never imagined the need to help providers pay for masks, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, etc., but we are grateful we could provide early care and learning programs with these items to help keep their business open and their staff and children safe.



The Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning has allowed DECAL to provide these kinds of emergency aid and supports and to celebrate the accomplishments of professionals in our field. Since 2017, the Foundation has recognized Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year in private and public schools. In 2021, we began honoring Early Childhood Educators of the Year.

Early Childhood Educators work with infants, toddlers, and three year olds to begin equipping them with the skills necessary for lifelong learning and success, and it was an honor to recognize the important achievements of an Infant Teacher, a Toddler Teacher, and a Preschool Teacher this year.

The Foundation has also continued to support efforts to expand access to high-quality early education for all children in Georgia, regardless of income or location. Because we understand the importance of quality in child care programs, DECAL established a deadline of December 31, 2021, for all Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) providers to become Quality Rated. Meeting this goal became problematic because of the pandemic, so DECAL had to create innovative solutions so that interested providers could meet the deadline. Quality Rated Assessors could not physically visit child care settings between March 2020 and July 2022 to conduct observations.

The solution: create a way for DECAL staff to visit and rate programs virtually. This solution was made possible when the United Way of Greater Atlanta and the Whitehead Foundation awarded funding to the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning to provide technology grants to child care programs working to become Quality Rated. Through these grants, providers received the technology needed for DECAL to visit and rate their programs. DECAL was on the leading edge of state early childhood agencies as we continued to advance Georgia's quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) during the pandemic.

I look forward to the Foundation continuing this important work in partnership with many of you. I encourage you to visit our website at gearlyed.org for updates and information about how to subscribe to our newsletter. If you have any questions about the contents of this report, contact Laura Wagner, Executive Director, at laura.wagner@dec.al.ga.gov




AMY M. JACOBS

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE ECE WORKFORCE + ADVANCING THE GOAL OF HIGH-QUALITY CARE FOR ALL GEORGIA'S CHILDREN



ECE WORKFORCE

For the fifth consecutive year, the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning worked with the Pre-K and Instructional Supports Division at DECAL to award two 2021-2022 Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year and to select six finalists for the 2022-2023 awards.

This year for the first time, the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning also presented Early Childhood Educator of the Year awards to an Infant Teacher, a Toddler Teacher, and a Preschool Teacher. Recognizing that the earliest years of a child's development and education lay the groundwork for future success, the Foundation is proud to recognize these early care professionals who work with Georgia's youngest citizens.

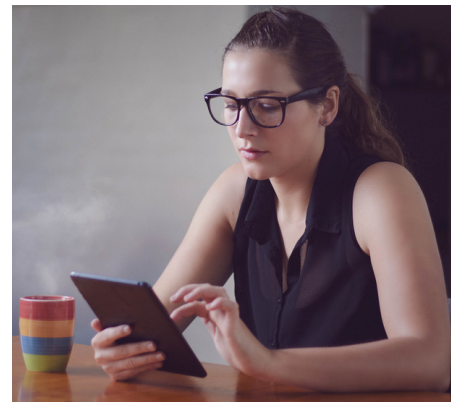
The Foundation also presented DECAL Scholar of the Year awards to two recipients in 2021 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the DECAL Scholars Program. These first-time awardees represented students in four-year college/university and Technical College System of Georgia settings. To be eligible for this honor, individuals had to be pursuing a degree or credential in Early Childhood Education while also working in a child care program.



Each awardee received funds for a classroom makeover, funds for their personal use, and a stipend to support travel-related expenses. Through these awards, the Foundation and DECAL have identified highly skilled and motivated teachers across Georgia and highlighted best practices in child care learning centers and family child care learning homes. At a time when the ECE workforce has been grappling with recruitment and retention challenges, it is more important than ever to demonstrate appreciation and support for professionals committed to providing high-quality care.

ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING FOR ALL GEORGIA'S CHILDREN

The Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning received \$475,000 from the United Way of Greater Atlanta (UWGA) via the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation to support providers going through the virtual Quality Rated process between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. DECAL distributed these resources through grants to enable providers to purchase technology and equipment to increase their success with the rating process.



DECAL also provided onsite and virtual technical support to help providers use the new equipment optimally. Helping providers meet their technology needs creates a more equitable experience for programs working toward achieving a Quality Rating, thereby increasing the likelihood, and number of, children receiving high-quality early learning experiences. These funds awarded to the Foundation by UWGA enabled 360 providers to purchase technology equipment during the past fiscal year. Funding allowed DECAL to also hire two part-time IT staff members to help grant recipients purchase and install equipment and help with other general IT needs. Providers who benefited from the grant between January and June 2022 were also given the option to purchase online training to help them maintain their Quality Rated star rating and prepare for a live observation.

The providers who received support from this technology grant serve children from low-income families with CAPS scholarships. By helping these child care providers receive training and resources to meet DECAL's standards for delivering high-quality early childhood education, the Foundation is enhancing equitable access to the state's early care and education system. This support has been especially important at a time when providers faced business and operational challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without the support made available through the UWGA funding, providers' efforts to meet Quality Rated requirements might have been hampered, thus impacting their ability to continue offering high-quality early education experiences to children in subsidized child care. At the end of 2021, 93% of children (51,842 children) with active CAPS scholarships were enrolled in Quality Rated care, and 86% of eligible CAPS providers had earned a star rating through Quality Rated.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUES

Contributions and Grants* 551,717.94

TOTAL REVENUES 551,717.94

EXPENSES AND GRANTS

Awards and Grants 368,584.00

Supplies and Maintenance 2,895.09

Repairs and Maintenance 520.00

Software 5,924.45

Other Operating Expenses 54,244.88

Contracts 85,000.00

TOTAL EXPENSES AND GRANTS 517,168.42

CHANGES IN NET POSITION 34,549.52

NET POSITION JULY 1, 2021 197,193.71

NET POSITION JUNE 30, 2022 231,743.23

* COMMUNITY SUPPORT

UNITED WAY OF GREATER ATLANTA VIA THE JOSEPH B.

WHITEHEAD FOUNDATION 475,000.00

NASERIAN FOUNDATION 50,000.00

NAMI FOUNDATION 10,000.00

GA LOTTERY DONATION 10,000.00

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DONORS 6,717.94

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