

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update #6 for Child Care Providers

November 10, 2020



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Agenda

Welcome

SOLVE Scholarships

Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs

Provider Survey Results

Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs

STABLE: Round 2

Woody Dover

COVID-19 Data

Randy Hudgins

Division Updates

- **CAPS**
- **Child Care Services**
- **Georgia's Pre-K & Instructional Supports**
- **Quality Innovations & Partnerships**
- **Nutrition Services**

Elisabetta Kasfir

Pam Stevens

Susan Adams

Bentley Ponder

Rian Ringsrud

Q & A

All

Closing

Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs



SOLVE Scholarships: Supporting Onsite Learning for Virtual Education

Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner for Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**

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SOLVE Scholarship Program Overview

- Georgia SOLVE provides scholarships for families with students enrolled in a Georgia public school system offering a ***primarily virtual*** learning model.
- SOLVE scholarships ***are not*** CAPS scholarships but are being administered through CAPS.
- Families were able to apply for a SOLVE scholarship through Gateway beginning September 1, 2020.



SOLVE Scholarship Program Eligibility



- Students must be between 5 and 12 years of age.
- Students must attend a school system offering a **primarily-virtual** learning model.
- Family income may not exceed 85% of the state median income (SMI).
- Families must be working and/or attending school.



What does “primarily-virtual learning” mean?

1

If a school district offers **primarily virtual only learning**, meaning 50% or more of instruction in virtual, the school district **is** eligible for SOLVE scholarships.

2

If a school district offers **in person learning for some, but not all grades K-7**, the school district **is** eligible for SOLVE scholarships.

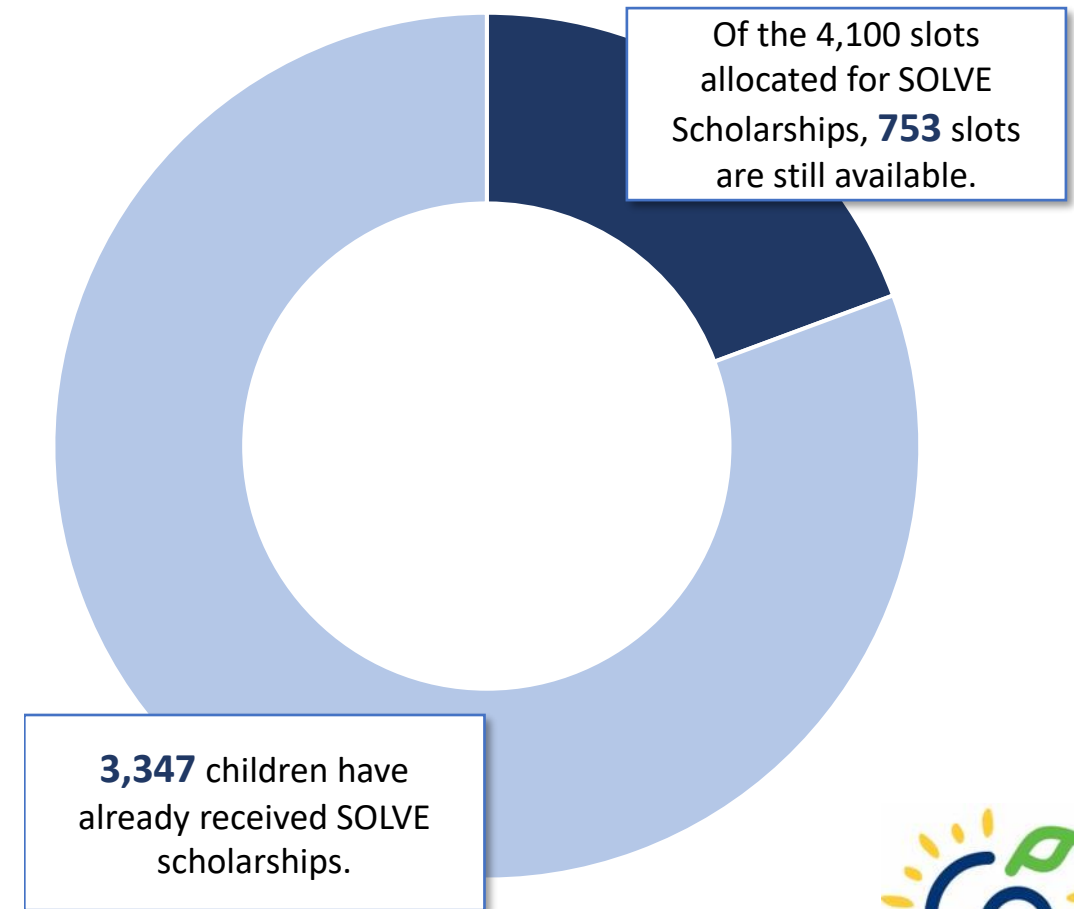


SOLVE Scholarship Program Status

- 70% of SOLVE applications are being automatically processed.
- DECAL staff typically process SOLVE applications manually within one business day.
- 4,503 families have applied for SOLVE scholarships, and the approval rate is 50%.

SOLVE Scholarship Slots

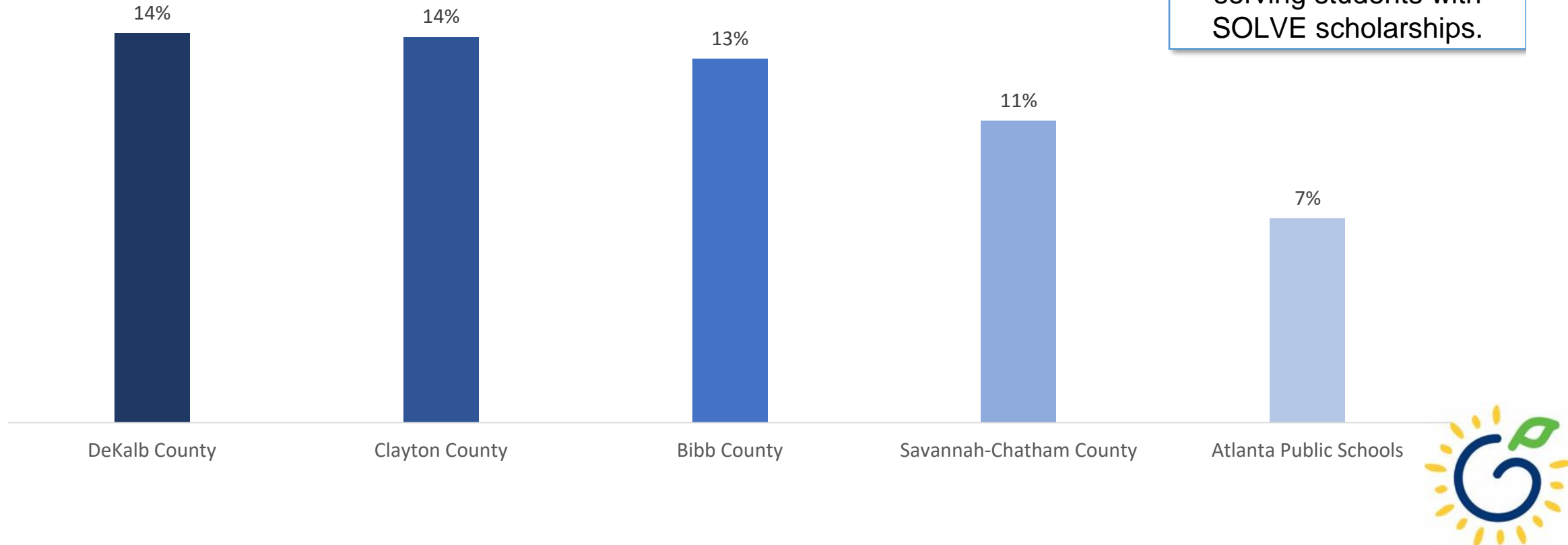
Available and Filled



Where are SOLVE scholarships being used?

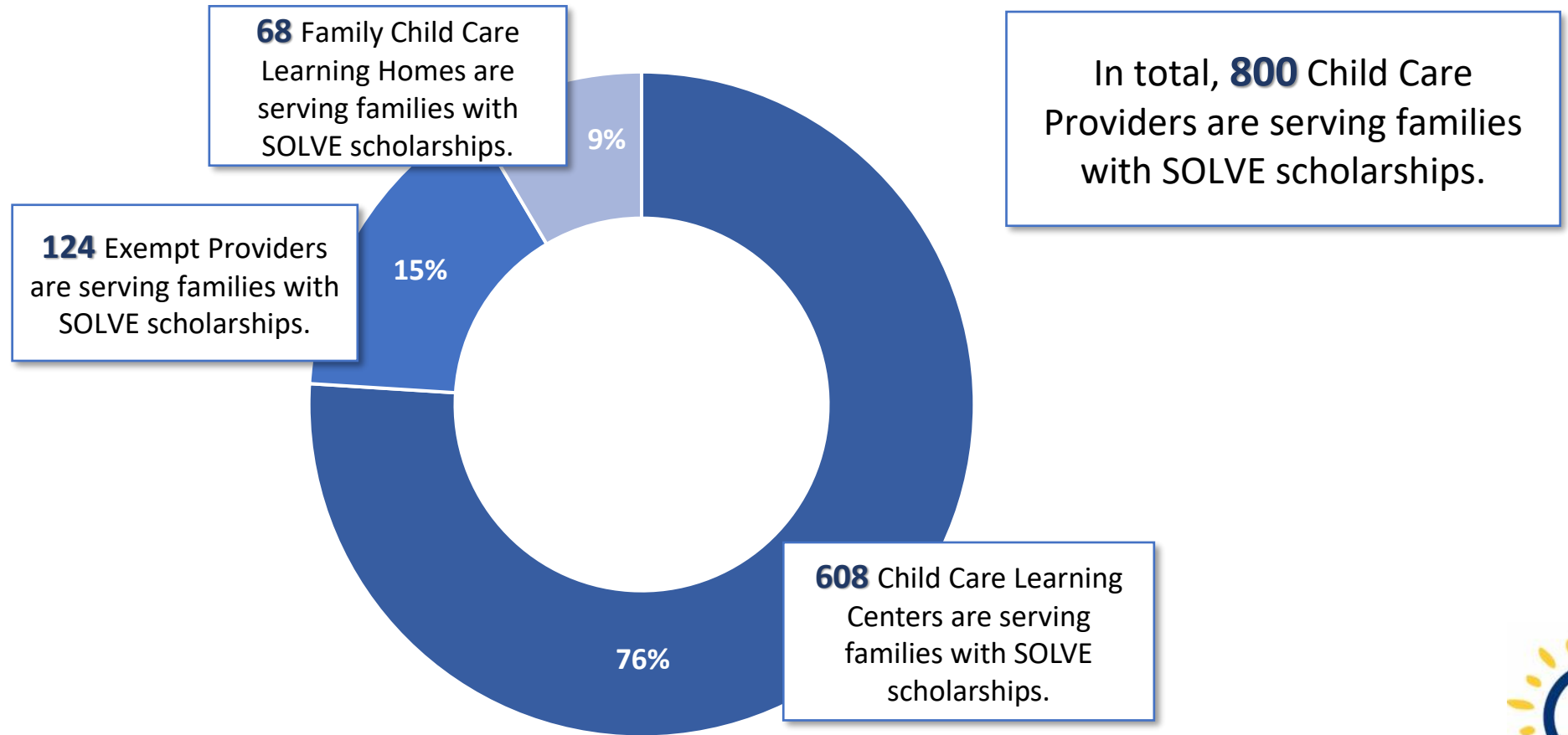
Percent of Children Approved by School District
Displaying the Districts with the Highest Scholarship Use

In total, **42** school districts are currently serving students with SOLVE scholarships.



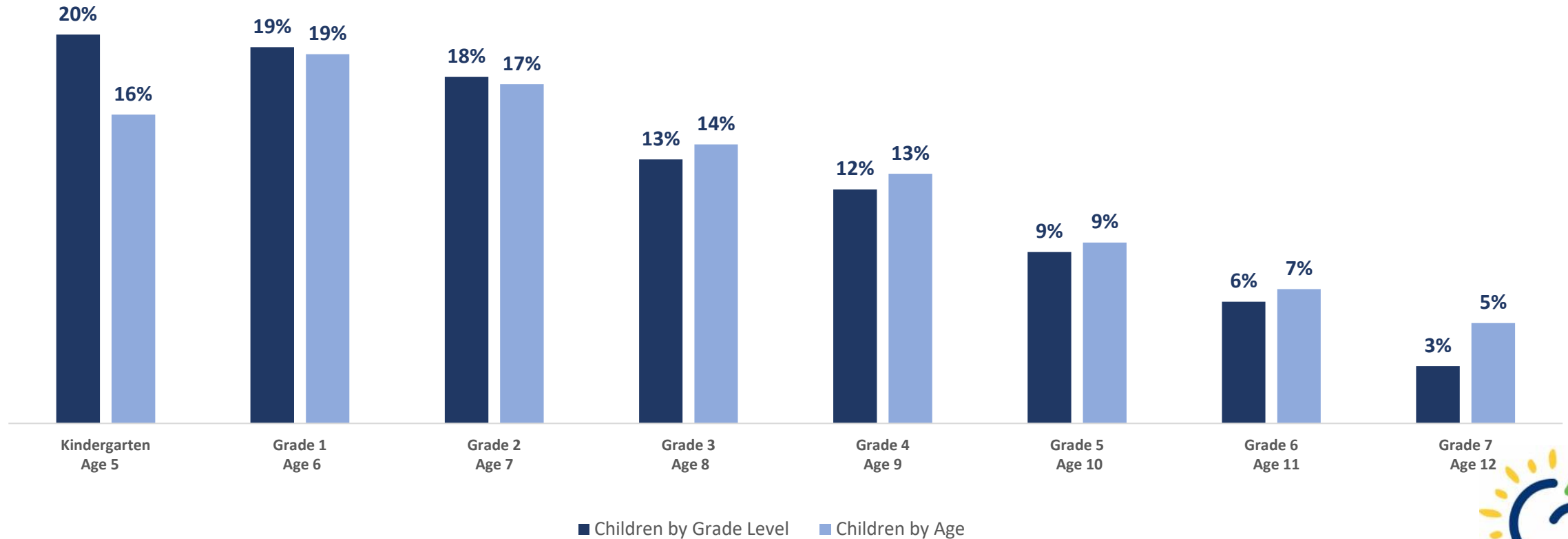
SOLVE Scholarship Providers

Number of Providers Serving Families with SOLVE Scholarships
By Provider Type



Age Range of Students with SOLVE Scholarships

SOLVE Scholarship Use by Grade Level and Age



Income Range of Families with SOLVE Scholarships

Annual Income of Approved SOLVE Families

Annual Income Range	% of Families
\$0 - \$10,399	12%
\$10,400 - \$20,799	29%
\$20,800 - \$31,199	29%
\$31,200 - \$41,599	19%
\$41,600 - \$51,999	8%
\$52,000+	3%



Provider Survey During COVID-19, July 2020

Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner for Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**

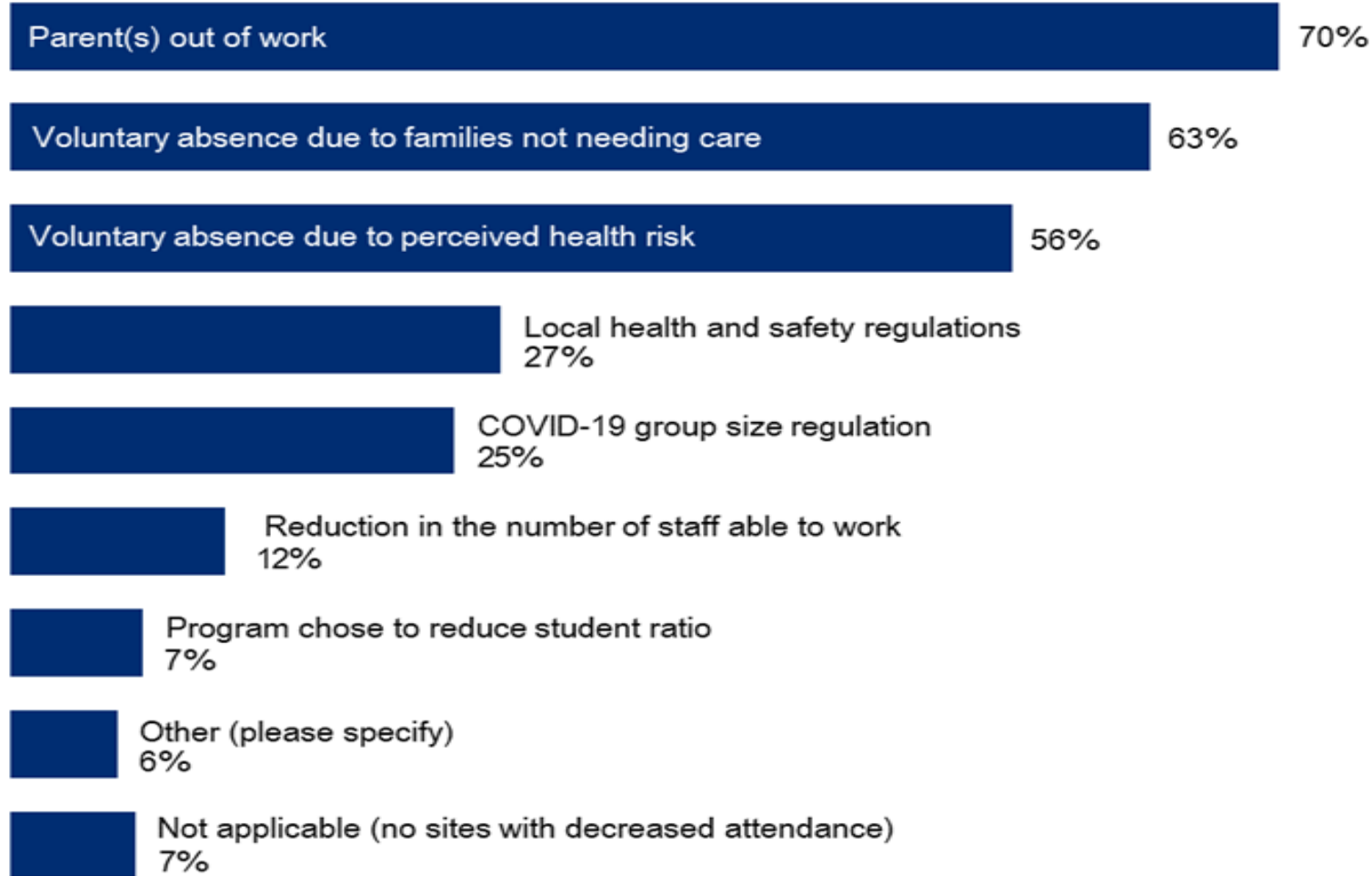
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Survey Overview

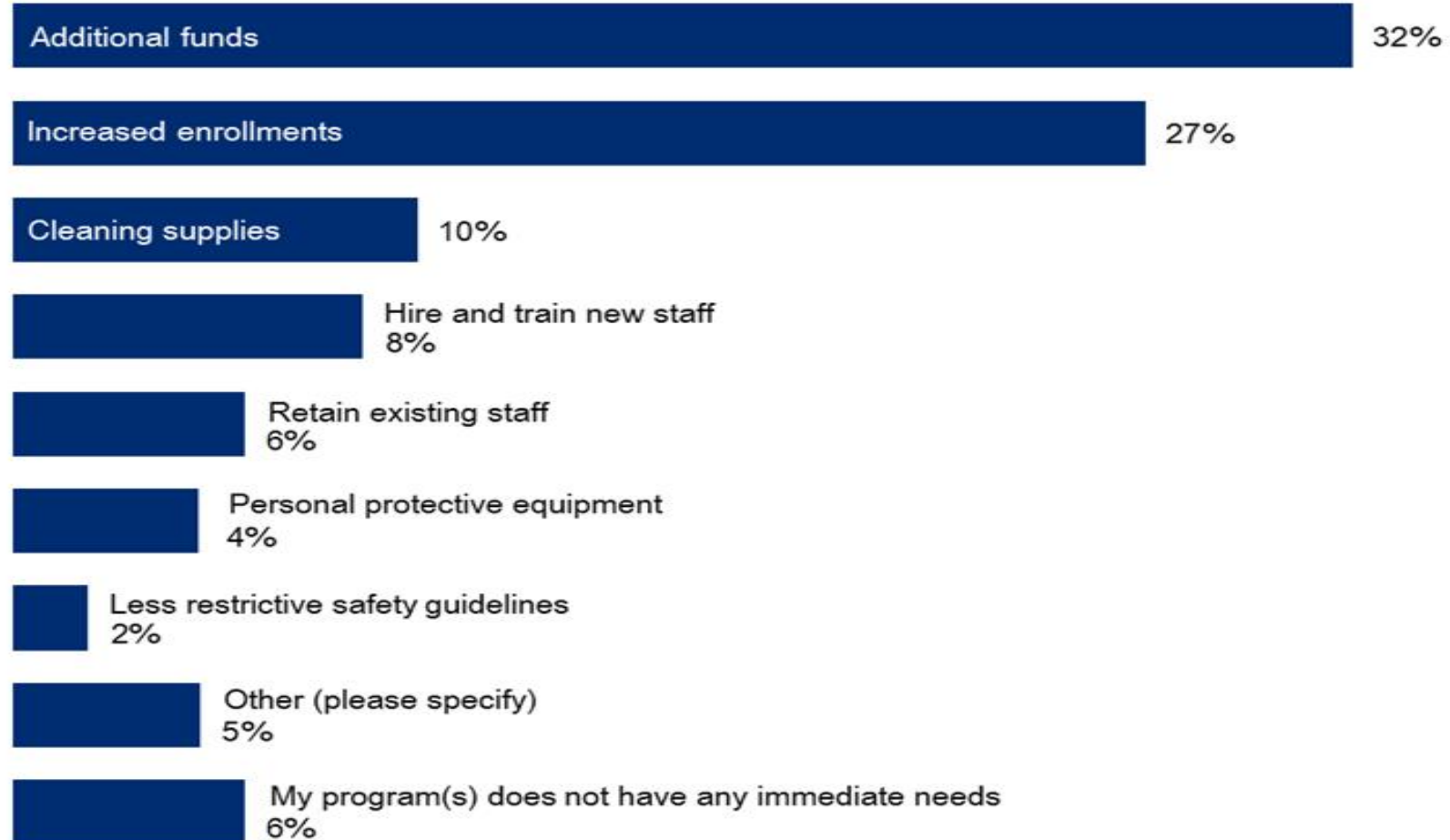
- Conducted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at UGA
- Asked licensed providers about:
 - their current “status”
 - their COVID-related needs
 - their experience applying for STABLE (Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities) funds
- Survey emailed to 4,087 providers in July 2020
- 1,988 providers responded (49% response rate)



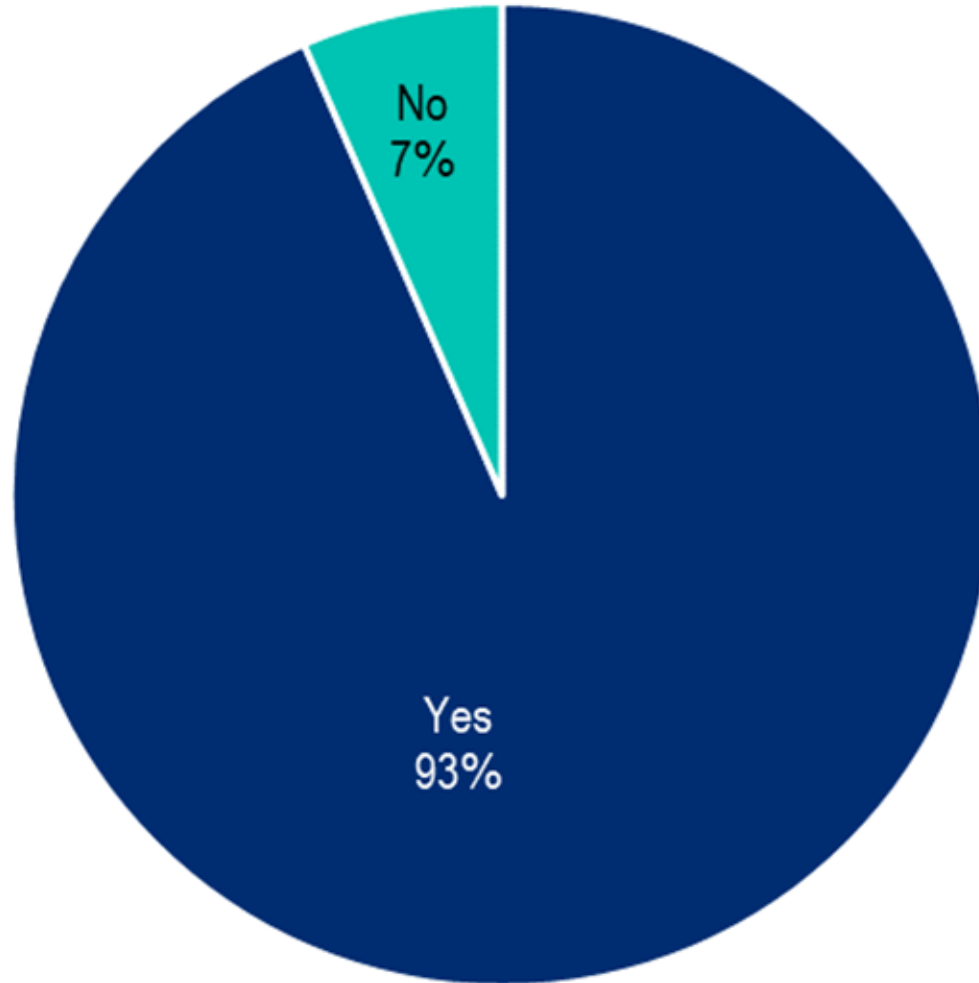
Reasons for Decreased Attendance July 2020



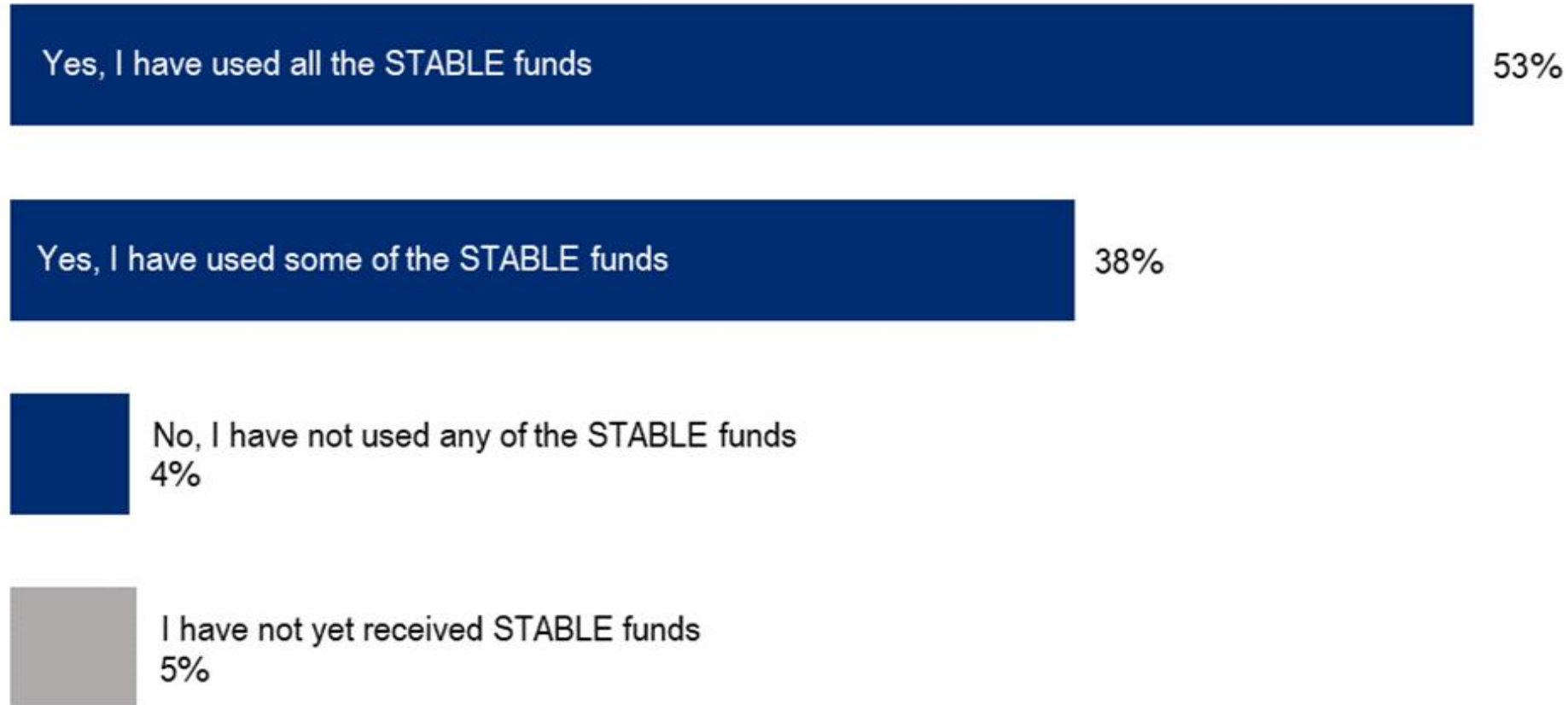
Most immediate need for program(s)



Applied for STABLE funds – Round 1 ($N=1,974$)



Use of STABLE funds July 2020



Use of STABLE funds July 2020 (*continued*)

To catch up on past expenses

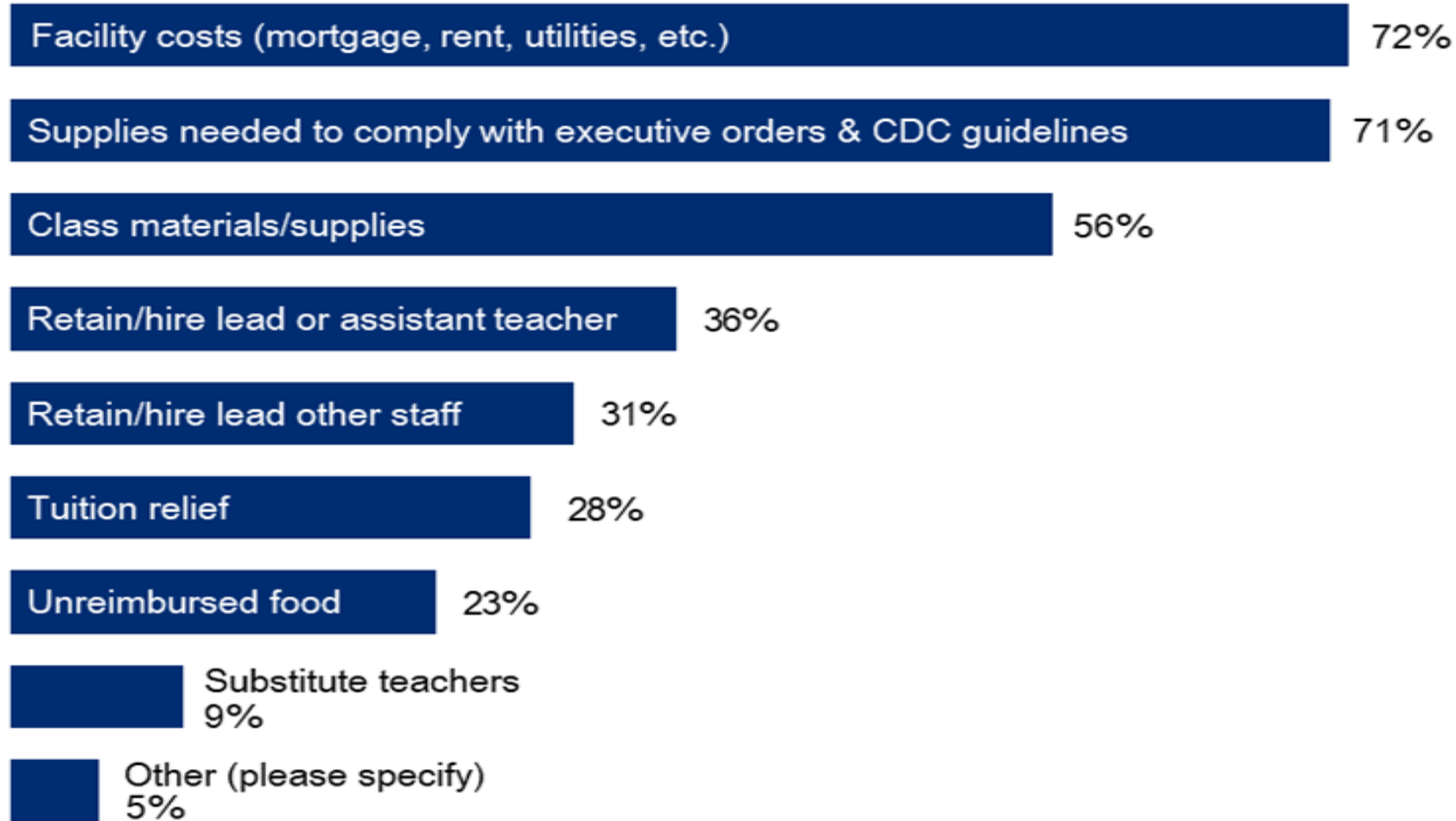
70%

For new expenses

66%



Use of STABLE funds July 2020 *(continued)*



STABLE funds helped child care program(s) remain open



Full Survey Results

Full Report with results can be found at:
<http://www.decal.ga.gov/BFTS/Covid19.aspx>



STABLE: Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities

Woody Dover, Enterprise Project Management Director

STABLE



**Georgia Dept
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STABLE: Round 2

Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities

- Benefit payment for licensed Child Care Learning Centers and Family Child Care Learning Homes
- Apply via DECAL KOALA November 16 – December 2
- Open programs only
- Total funding up to \$55 Million
- Payments issued by Maximus Inc.
- Spending deadline is June 30, 2021



STABLE: The Details

- Same application as Round 1
- Total payment amount based on October attendance information
- \$240 per child in attendance
 - The rate per child is based on cost for a two-year-old at a 2-star Quality Rated provider in Metro Atlanta
- Minimum payment of \$2,000
- Maximum payment amount per licensed location
- Simple budget allocation plan required



How to Apply: Getting Started

Log in to DECAL KOALA, <https://decalkoala.com/>



[Home](#) [Facility Update](#) [License Fee](#) [Enforcement Actions](#) [Manage POI Notices](#) [License Certificate](#) [Background Check](#) [Required Reporting](#) [Apply for Exemption](#) [Emails](#)

The NEW Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE) Payment Application is available for licensed child care providers interested in applying to receive Child Care Development Block Grant funds provided by the CARES Act. This funding opportunity is intended to help stabilize the cost of maintaining child care programs and supporting the child care workforce during the current public health emergency.

The application is not intended for programs locations **fully funded** by the Head Start and/or Early Head Start programs.

Applications must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. on Dec 02, 2020. Applications will not be accepted after the submission deadline.

[+ Apply for a STABLE Payment](#)



How to Apply: Entering Eligible Attendance

Based on attendance during the month of October

Enter the location's attendance information for the month of October.

Age	Total Attendance	Early Head Start/Head Start Attendance	Georgia's Pre-K Attendance	CAPS/SOLVE Attendance	Total Private Attendance
Under 1 year	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
1 year	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
2 years	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
3 years	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
4 years	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
5 years (prek-only)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
5 years & older (kindergarten & up)	<input type="text" value="0"/>			<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0



How to Apply: Entering Eligible Attendance

Step 1: Total Attendance

Enter the location's attendance information for the month of October.

Age	Total Attendance	Early Head Start/Head Start Attendance	Georgia's Pre-K Attendance	CAPS/SOLVE Attendance	Total Private Attendance
Under 1 year	10	0		0	10
1 year	12	0		0	12
2 years	8	0		0	8
3 years	6	0		0	6
4 years	0	0	0	0	0
5 years (prek-only)	8	0	0	0	8
5 years & older (kindergarten & up)	10			0	10
Total	54	0	0	0	54

How to Apply: Entering Eligible Attendance

Step 2: Early Head Start/Head Start Attendance

Enter the location's attendance information for the month of October.

Age	Total Attendance	Early Head Start/Head Start Attendance	Georgia's Pre-K Attendance	CAPS/SOLVE Attendance	Total Private Attendance
Under 1 year	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	10
1 year	<input type="text" value="12"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	12
2 years	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	8
3 years	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	6
4 years	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
5 years (prek-only)	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	8
5 years & older (kindergarten & up)	<input type="text" value="10"/>			<input type="text" value="0"/>	10
Total	54	0	0	0	54

How to Apply: Entering Eligible Attendance

Step 3: Georgia's Pre-K Attendance

Enter the location's attendance information for the month of October.

Age	Total Attendance	Early Head Start/Head Start Attendance	Georgia's Pre-K Attendance	CAPS/SOLVE Attendance	Total Private Attendance
Under 1 year	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	10
1 year	<input type="text" value="12"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	12
2 years	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	8
3 years	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="text" value="0"/>	6
4 years	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
5 years (prek-only)	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	8
5 years & older (kindergarten & up)	<input type="text" value="10"/>			<input type="text" value="0"/>	10
Total	54	0	0	0	54

How to Apply: Entering Eligible Attendance

Step 4: CAPS/SOLVE Attendance

Enter the location's attendance information for the month of October.

Age	Total Attendance	Early Head Start/Head Start Attendance	Georgia's Pre-K Attendance	CAPS/SOLVE Attendance	Total Private Attendance
Under 1 year	10	0		3	7
1 year	12	0		6	6
2 years	8	0		1	7
3 years	6	0		0	6
4 years	0	0	0	0	0
5 years (prek-only)	8	0	0	0	8
5 years & older (kindergarten & up)	10			8	2
Total	54	0	0	18	36

How to Apply: Entering Eligible Attendance

Private Attendance is calculated

Enter the location's attendance information for the month of October.

Age	Total Attendance	Early Head Start/Head Start Attendance	Georgia's Pre-K Attendance	CAPS/SOLVE Attendance	Total Private Attendance
Under 1 year	10	0		3	7
1 year	12	0		6	6
2 years	8	0		1	7
3 years	6	0		0	6
4 years	0	0	0	0	0
5 years (prek-only)	8	0	0	0	8
5 years & older (kindergarten & up)	10			8	2
Total	54	0	0	18	36

How to Apply: Budget Allocation Plan

Budget Allocation Categories	Percentage Allocation	
Retaining or Hiring Lead and Assistant Teachers	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input data-bbox="937 382 1003 439" type="text" value="%"/>
Retaining or Hiring Other Employed Staff	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input data-bbox="937 511 1003 568" type="text" value="%"/>
Substitute Teachers	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input data-bbox="937 611 1003 668" type="text" value="%"/>
Classroom Materials and Supplies	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input data-bbox="937 711 1003 768" type="text" value="%"/>
Unreimbursed Food	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input data-bbox="937 811 1003 868" type="text" value="%"/>
Facilities Costs	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input data-bbox="937 911 1003 968" type="text" value="%"/>
Supplies to Adhere to CDC Guidelines	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input data-bbox="937 1011 1003 1068" type="text" value="%"/>
Tuition Relief for Families	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input data-bbox="937 1110 1003 1168" type="text" value="%"/>
Total		0%

- No minimum requirements in a single category
- Must account for 100%
- Funds must be liquidated by June 30, 2021

How to Apply: Additional Guidance

- Detailed instructions, application worksheet

Open

- Base rate of \$240 per eligible child
- Minimum payment of \$2,000

Please refer to the link below for application instructions as well as an application worksheet. This application cannot be saved so please be sure to complete all relevant sections in accordance with the directions provided prior to submitting the application. [Instructions](#)

- The application may be edited prior to the deadline
- Acknowledge and

Submit
- Confirmation message and email

Thank you for submitting your request. This message is the receipt of your submission of STABLE Payment application submission number 51616. STABLE applications will be processed once the application period has closed and you will be notified at that time if any additional action is necessary to receive the payment..

- Contact us via email: STABLE@decal.ga.gov



COVID-19 Data

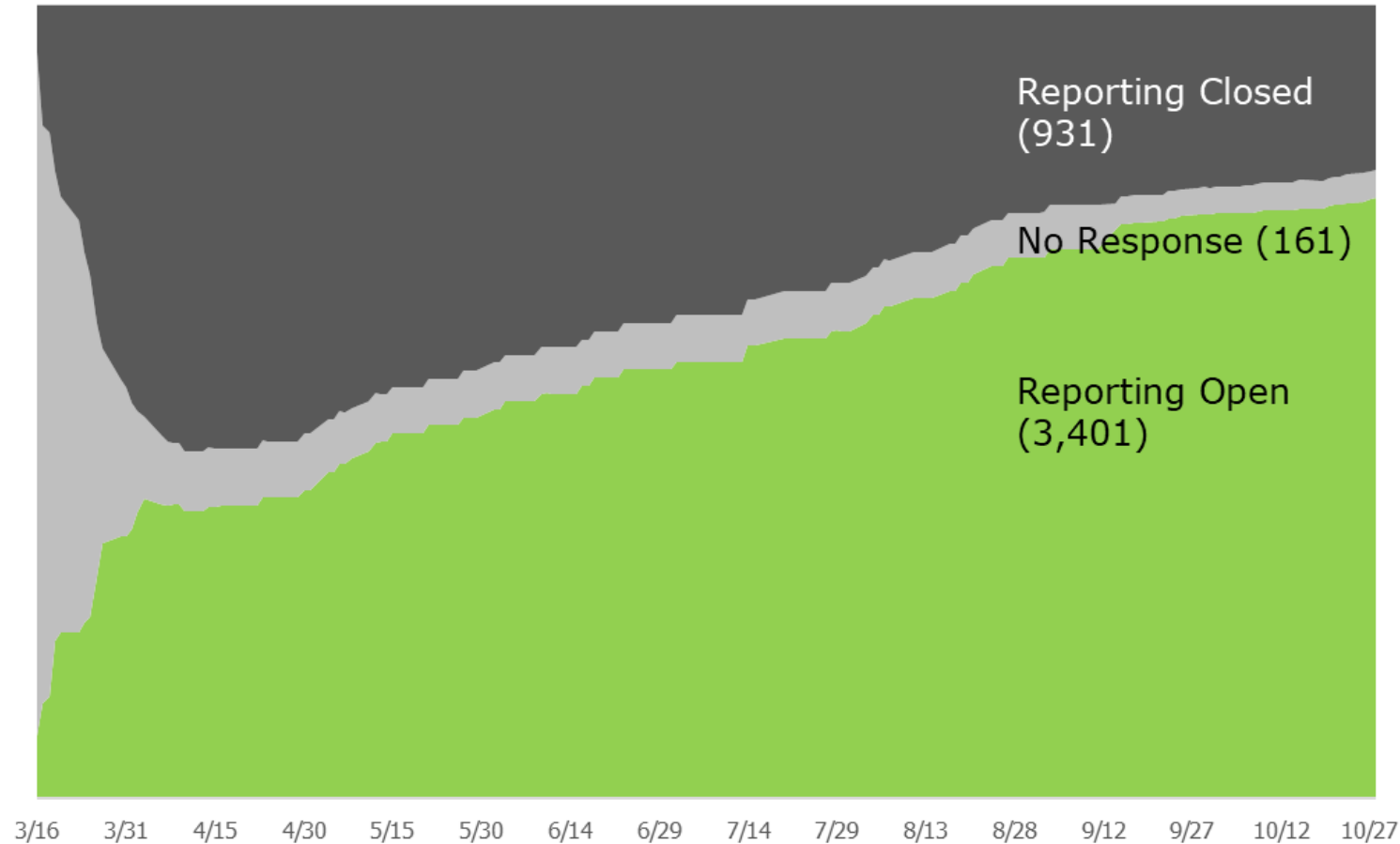
Randy Hudgins, Director of Research and Policy Analysis



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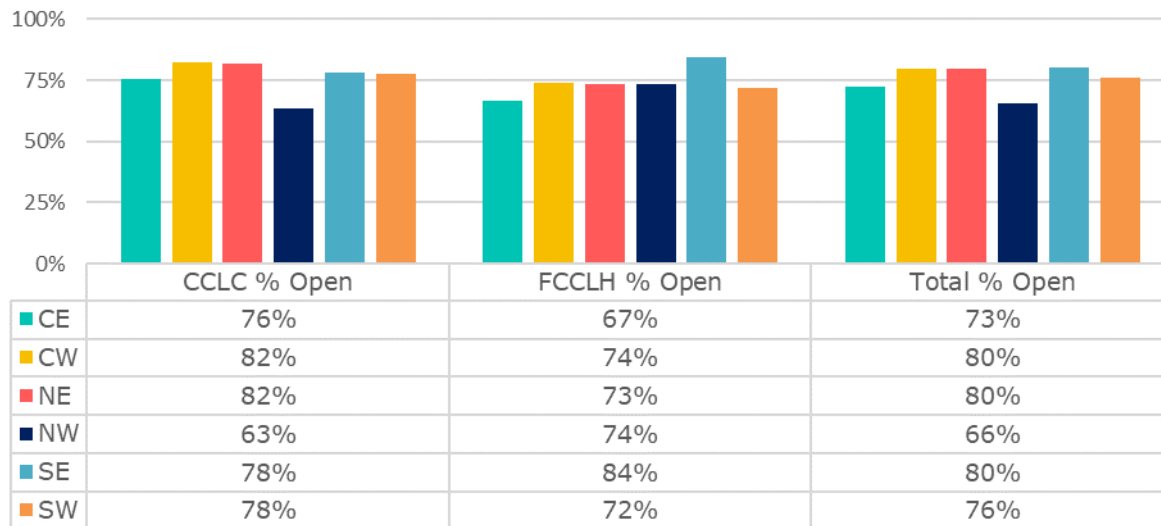
Self-reported temporary status in DECAL KOALA

Reported Temporary Closure Status of Licensed Child Care during COVID-19
Updated: 10/28/2020

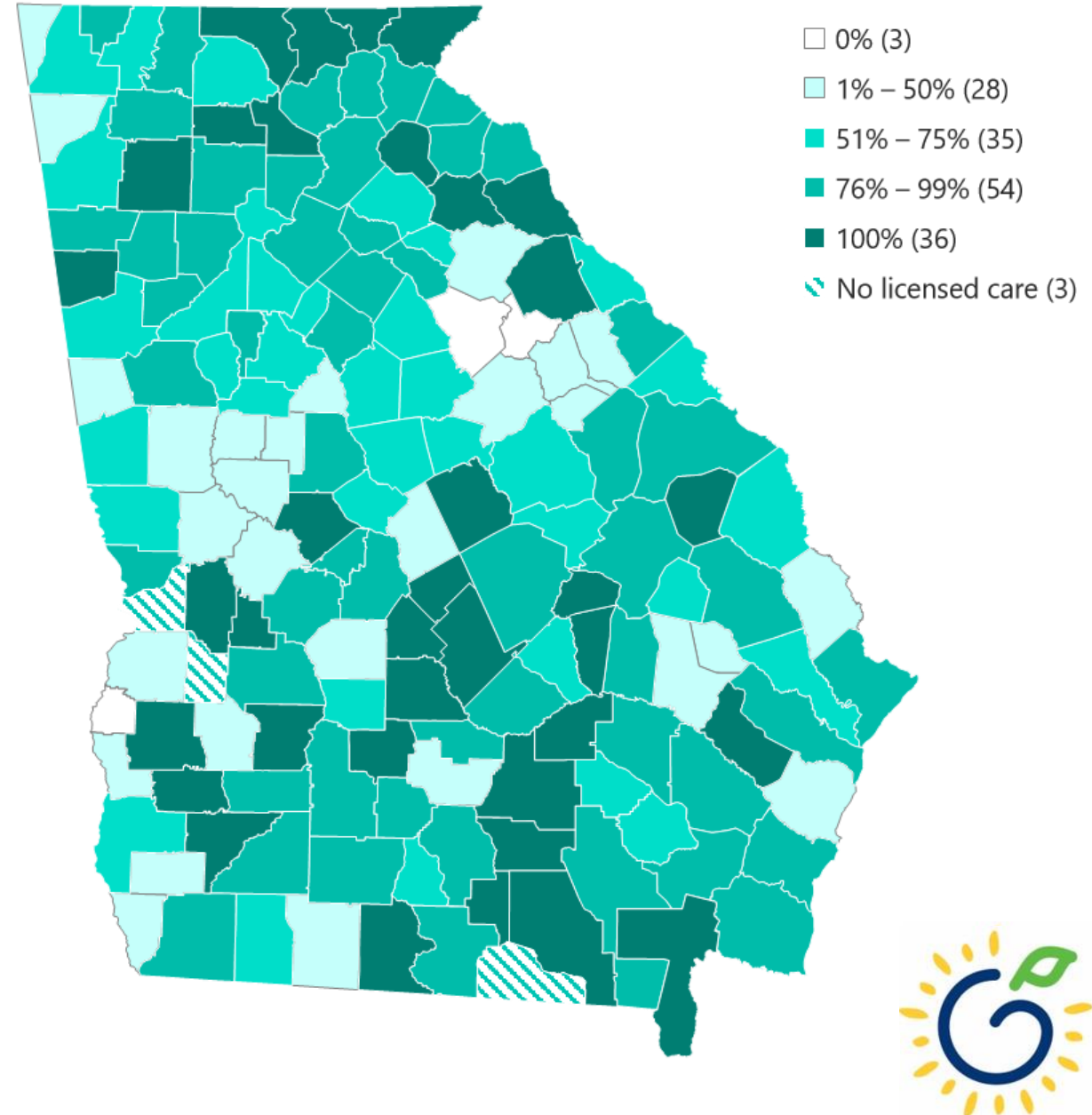


Self-reported temporary status in DECAL KOALA

% of CCLCs and FCCLHs Open by Region

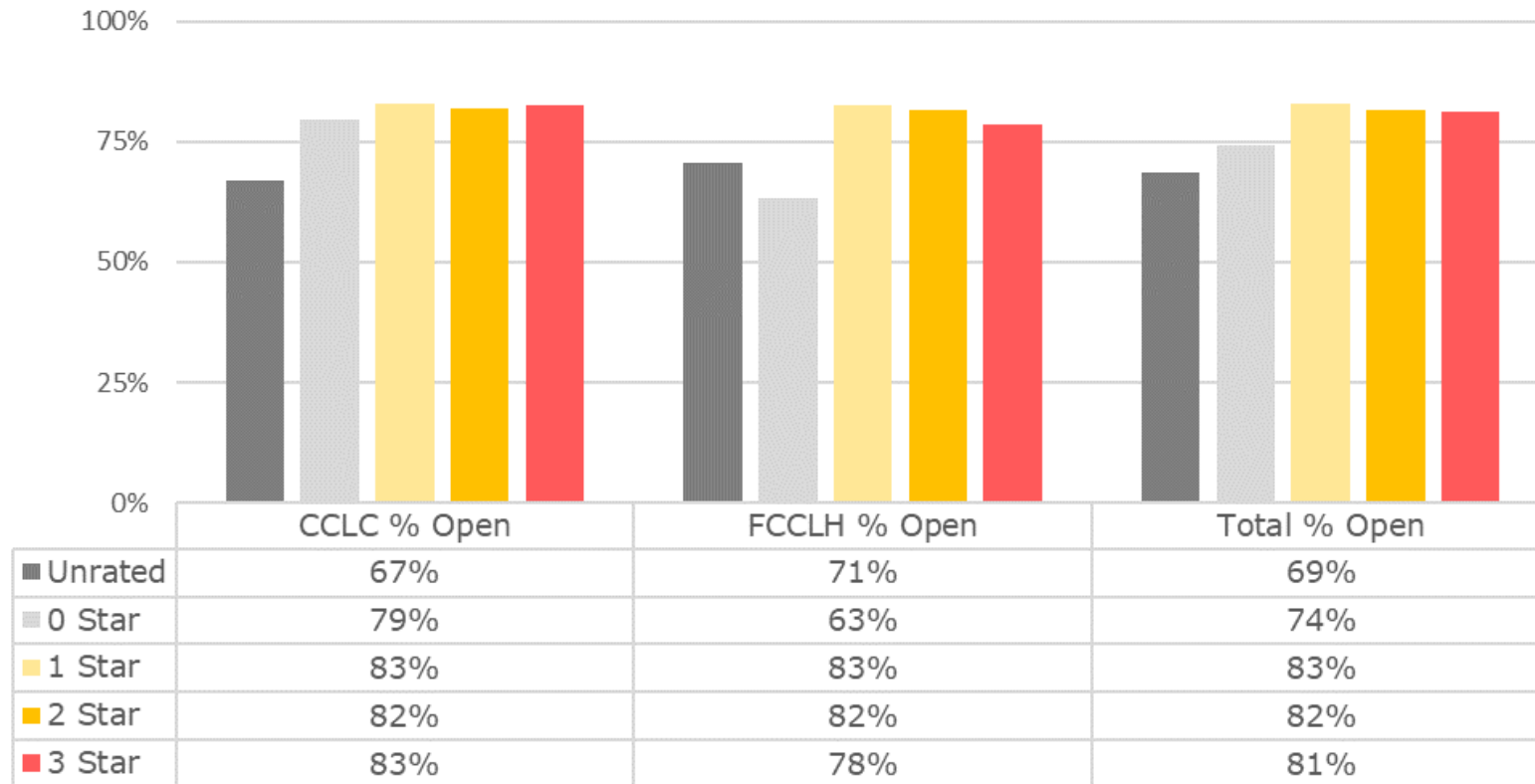


Licensed Child Care Reporting **Open** as of 10/28/2020

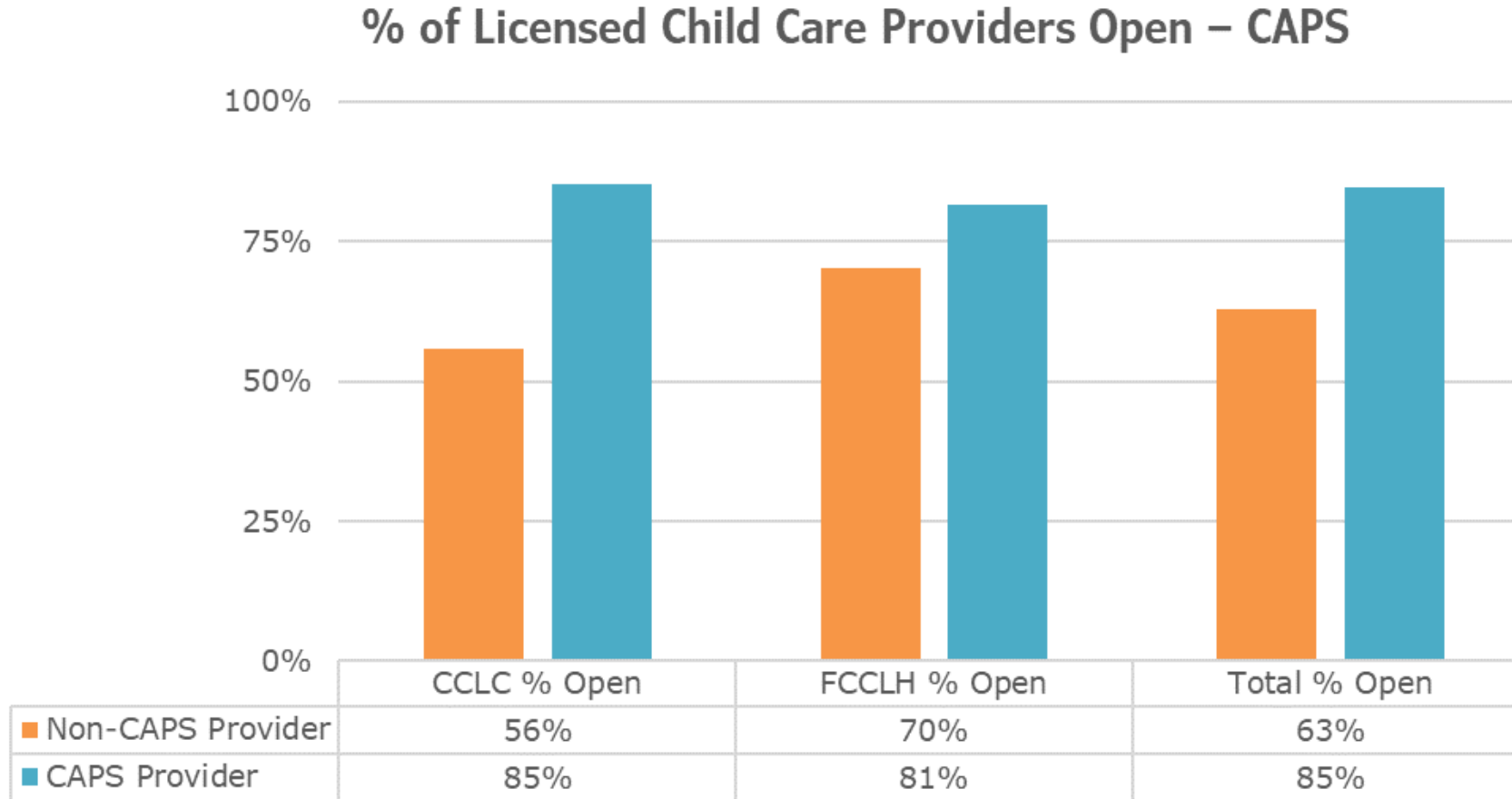


“Open” By Quality Rated Status and Provider Type

% of Licensed Child Care Providers Open by Quality Rating



“Open” by Providers Serving CAPS



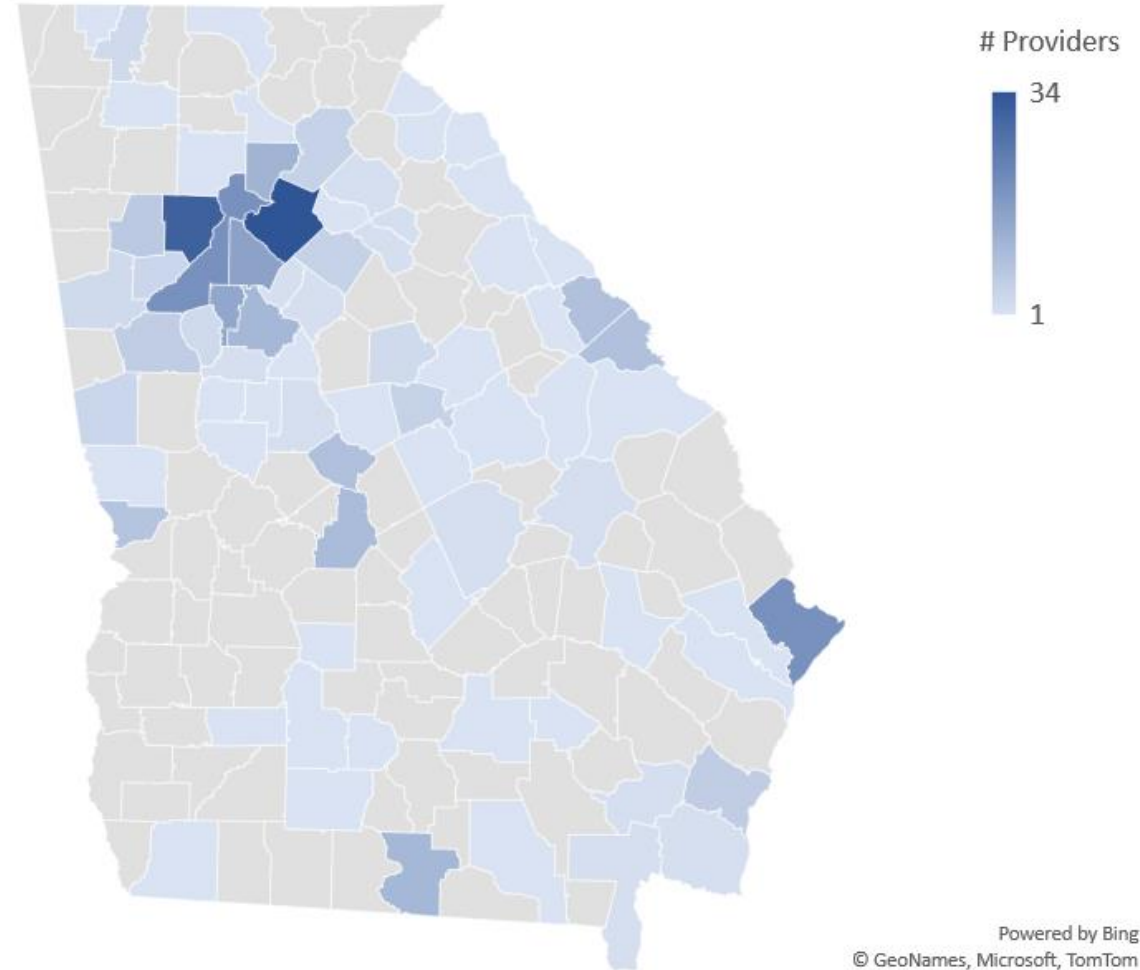
Child Care Services – Provider Contact Log

March 17th – September 30th

As of September 30th...

- 330 licensed providers voluntarily self-reported at least one case of COVID-19
- 75 counties reported at least one case of COVID-19

of Providers Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19 by County



DECAL Division Updates



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CAPS Updates

Elisabetta Kasfir, Deputy Commissioner for Childcare and Parent Services



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CAPS Updates



Changes to Emergency Payment Policies

- Providers must be “Open-for Care” in order to bill for CAPS Scholarships
- Waivers for Temporarily Closed Programs
 - Waivers are only required for programs whose temporary closures last more than 30 days.
 - Waiver requests must include:
 1. The reason for remaining temporarily closed
 2. The active steps taken to re-open
 3. Any barriers to reopening



CAPS Policy Changes



Renewals for Ongoing Family Support



Child Care Services Updates

Pam Stevens, Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services



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Child Care Services Updates

- Updated DPH/DECAL COVID Guidance
- Updated COVID checklist
- Transportation continues to be for transport to the child's home, the child care facility, and schools only
- Virtual visits continue
- Update closure information in KOALA



Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports Updates

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

Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year



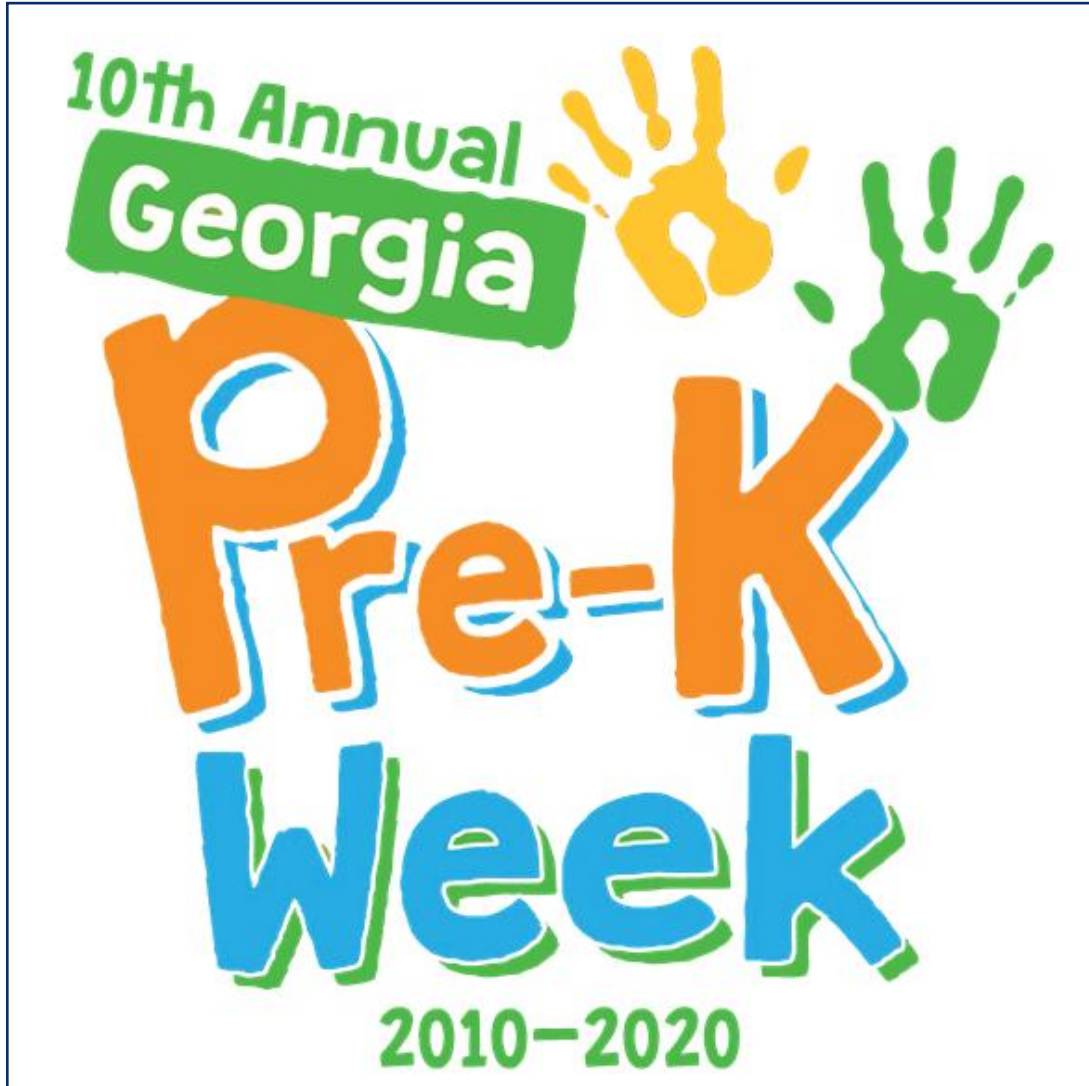
Heather Melillo
West End Elementary - Rome



Alderine Healey
YMCA Paulding Early Learning - Hiram



Georgia Pre-K Week 2020



October 5 – 9 VIRTUAL Celebration!

- Over 800 Pre-K programs registered with Voices for Georgia's Children – **RECORD NUMBER!**
- 8 DECAL board members read virtually
- Celebrity Engagement:
 - Coy Bowles – Zac Brown Band
 - Monica Kaufman-Pearson – Legendary Atlanta TV and Radio Personality
 - Karen Greer – CBS46 News Anchor
 - Foye Oluokun – Atlanta Falcons
 - Brooks Lennon – Atlanta United
 - Rafael Furcal – Atlanta Braves

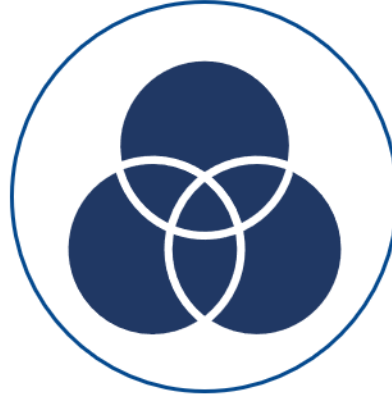


Pre-K Update: Instructional Models



Traditional: 65%

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



Hybrid: 10%

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



Full Distance Learning: 25%

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

Pre-K Update: Interim Policy

Pre-K Payments

- Pre-K payments will be based on the grant agreement and lead teacher credentials.
- Payments will **not** be prorated by student attendance.



Low Enrollment

- Classrooms with less than 11 students will be reviewed for possible closure.
- Criteria for Review:
 - SY2020 enrollment
 - SY2021 enrollment
 - Potential impact on SY2022 enrollment
 - Lead teacher credential issues
 - Parental choice of models



Online Learning Library Initiative (OLLI)



DID YOU KNOW?

.....

The Online Learning Library Initiative (OLLI) provides free online trainings to Georgia's early learning workforce.

Topic areas include:

- GELDS**
- Intentional teaching**
- SEEDS**
- Inclusion**
- Family engagement**

.....

Visit gapds.dec.state.ga.us to explore available trainings!



FREE Training Available Now

- New courses available on the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS)
- Available to anyone who creates a free account
- Audiences
 - Teachers
 - Family child care professionals
 - Center directors
 - Approved trainers
 - DECAL staff



Online Learning Library Initiative (OLLI)

- All courses are DECAL approved to count toward annual training requirements for licensed programs
- New course additions are planned for 2021 and 2022
- To learn more, visit www.gapds.decal.ga.gov



Quality Innovations and Partnerships Updates

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships



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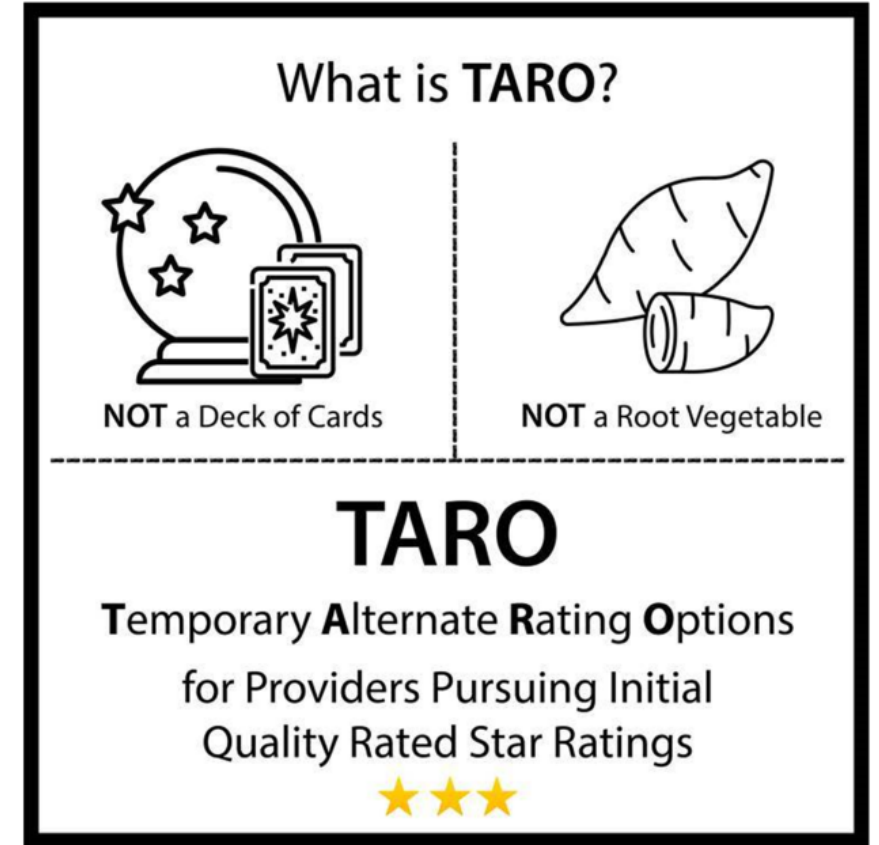
Quality Rated Updates

- Extended Quality Rated/CAPS deadline to at least December 31, 2021.
- Quality Rated observations suspended until at least July 1, 2021.
 - “Hold Harmless” observations may occur in Spring 2021.
- So far this year we have rated **506** programs:
 - 299 providers rated with traditional 3-star, 3-year rating.
 - 207 providers rated with a new 1-star, 1-year rating option.



Quality Rated Updates

- Based on success of the 1-star, 1-year rating, Quality Rated created the Temporary Alternate Rating Options (TARO).
 - Includes 1-star, 1-year rating option.
 - Adds a 2-star, 1-year rating option.
 - This option includes a guided Quality Rated Virtual Process (QRVP)
 - The QRVP is being piloted Fall 2020.
 - Will be the rating method in Winter/Spring 2021
 - Working on incorporating “re-ratings” into TARO.



Quality Rated Incentive Payments

- If you are a CAPS provider that received your **first** star rating in 2020, you should have received an email about registering for your incentive payment.
- Contact the Quality Rated Help Desk if you have not received this email:

QualityRated@dec.al.ga.gov
1-855-800-7747



Quality Rated Providers

IF YOU ARE A CAPS PROVIDER
THAT RECEIVED YOUR FIRST STAR RATING IN 2020

**REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN FOR
RATING INCENTIVE BONUS PAYMENTS**

You Will Receive an E-Mail With Instructions

For Help & More Info:
Contact support@c4cpaymentprocessing.com
or
Call 678-894-2240



2021 Cohort Dates

2021 Cohort	Portfolio Submission Window	Observation or QRVP Window	Rating Announcement Window
Cohort 1 TARO	January 4 – 29, 2021	Option B - QRVP February 1 – April 30, 2021	May 2021
Cohort 2 TARO	March 1 – 31, 2021	Option B - QRVP April 1 – June 30, 2021	July 2021
Cohort 3 Traditional	May 3 – 31, 2021	On-site Observation July 1 – September 30, 2021	August – October 2021
Cohort 4 Traditional	August 2 – 31, 2021	On-site Observation October 1 – December 31, 2021	November 2021 – January 2022

November 11 – 24: Providers in a 2020 Cohort and will not be rated after 2020 will automatically be switched to a 2021 cohort. Have until November 24 to change cohorts.

November 25 – December 22: Providers with a 2021 required reassessment, including those who received a temporary one-star earlier this year, have priority to select a 2021 cohort.

December 22: Any provider can select a cohort.





QR Help
Desk

Phone: 1-855-800-7747
QualityRated@dec.al.ga.gov

Business Services Webinar Related to STABLE II

- Hosted by your friendly neighborhood Community Coordinators.
- Led by Monique Reynolds from Quality Care for Children.
- Dates:
 - Thursday, 11/12 @ 12:30pm: South Region – Centers
 - Thursday, 11/12 @ 6:30pm: South Region – Family Learning Homes
 - Monday, 11/16 @ 12:30pm: Central Region – Centers
 - Monday, 11/16 @ 6:30pm: Central Region – Family Learning Homes
 - Tuesday, 11/17 @ 12:30pm: North Region – Centers
 - Tuesday, 11/17 @ 6:30pm: North Region – Family Learning Homes



Nutrition Services Updates

Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance & Administration



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USDA Flexibilities

- The USDA issued waivers to support access to nutritious meals, while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19.
- Flexibilities currently granted by USDA include but are not limited to:
 - Non-congregate feeding
 - Parent Pick-up
 - Multi-day Meal Distribution
 - Area Eligibility
 - Meal Pattern & Meal-Times Flexibilities
- If your facility would like to request a waiver to use any of these flexibilities, contact Leslie Truman:
 - Leslie.Truman@dec.al.gov
 - 404.657.1779

Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children





Child & Adult Care Food Program

- Don't forget: You may be able to claim meals served to school age children (12 years and under) who are participating in virtual instruction but are enrolled in your facilities for care if certain conditions are met:
 - Adhere to all CACFP criteria for claiming meals such as maintaining enrollment and attendance records.
 - Ensure the maximum number of meals and snacks are not exceeded.
 - Ensure meals or snacks provided by a third party such as the parent or school are not claimed under CACFP.
 - Sign a certification statement found on DECAL's website under COVID19 Resources.

For Additional
Information, contact

Leslie Truman:

Leslie.Truman@dec.al.ga.gov

404.657.1779

Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children



Summer Food Service Program

- Meals are currently being served in communities
- Available FREE to children 18 years and younger
- Help spread the word to families about how to locate a meal site:

DECAL.ga.gov

- Programs>Nutrition>COVID19 Resources>SFSP Meal Site List
- Sorted by county
- Updated each Thursday

USDA Meals 4 Kids Site Finder

- fns.usda.gov/meals4kids2

National Hunger Hotline

- 1-866-3-HUNGRY (English)
- 1-877-8-HAMBRE (Spanish)



Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children



- Types of facilities that are eligible to receive reimbursement through the CACFP:
 - Child Care Centers
 - Day Care Homes
 - At Risk Afterschool Programs
 - Adult Day Care
- If your facility is not currently on the CACFP, considering applying today. *Requirements include:*
 - Child care license or exemption
 - Attend 2-day virtual training
 - Submit application

For Additional
Information, contact

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Working Together to Feed Georgia's Children



Q & A



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