



# DECAL Stakeholder Network: Quality Initiatives Advisory Committee December 4, 2012



**Dr. Laura J. Johns, Director, Quality Initiatives**  
**Deidria W. Bolden, Director, Special Projects**



# Agenda

- Welcome
- DECAL Updates and Priorities
- Georgia's Initiatives Supporting Quality Rated
- Wrap Up and Next Steps





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Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

**Deidria W. Bolden**  
**Director, Special Projects**



# DECAL Priorities



- Health and Safety
- Quality early education leading to increased school readiness
- Communication



# Your Feedback



- What is DECAL doing well?
- What is DECAL doing that could be improved?
- What is DECAL not doing that we should be doing?





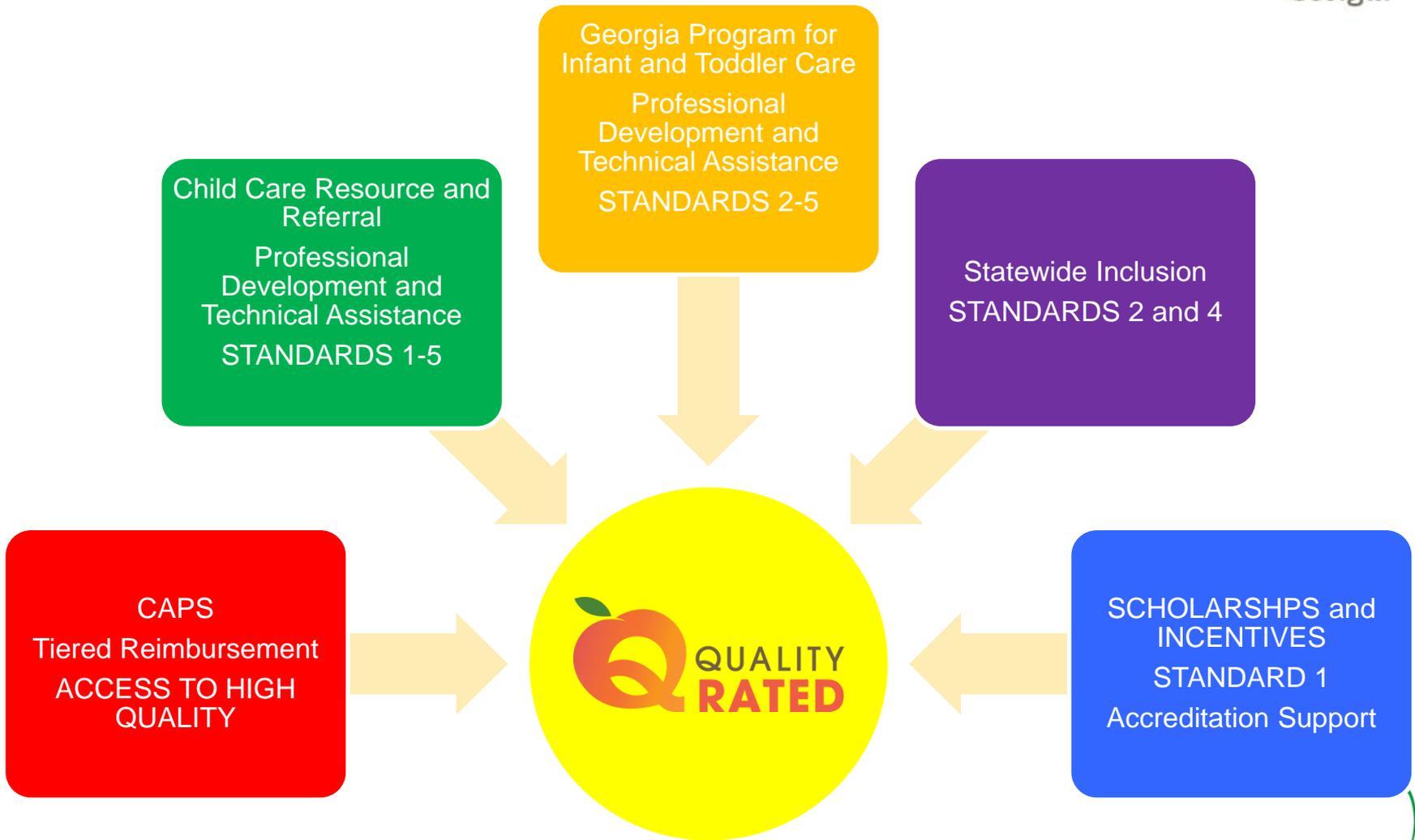
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# Quality Initiatives



# CAPS – Tiered Reimbursement



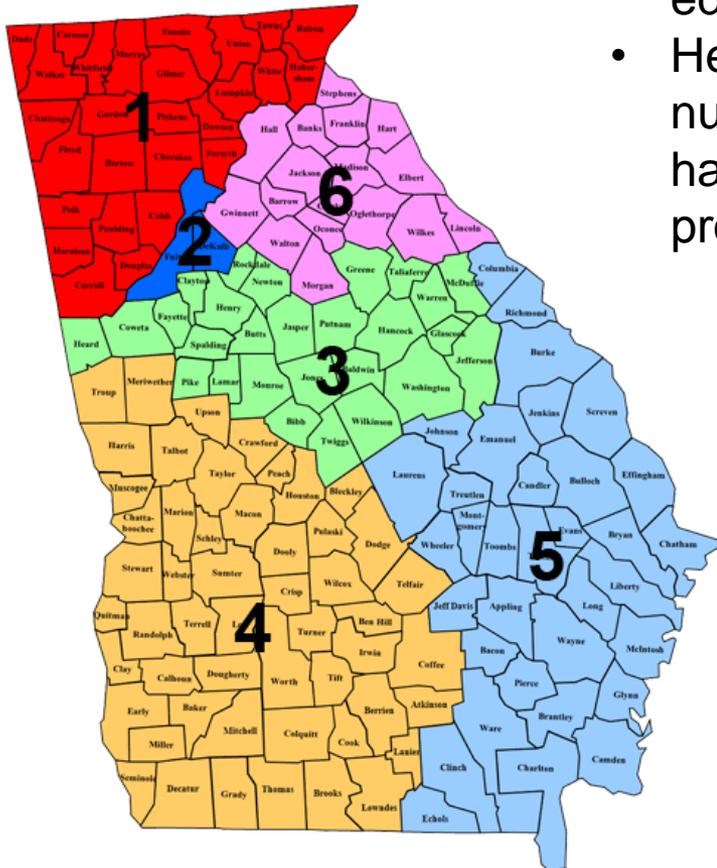
- The CAPS program provides subsidized child care to low income families.
- Georgia residents can apply for child care subsidies online with Georgia COMPASS. (<http://www.compass.ga.gov>).
- Tiered reimbursement will be based on star levels (indicating level of quality) effective July 2013.



# Child Care Resource and Referral System



- Network of support for parents and early childhood educators at the local level.
- Helps DECAL fulfill our vision of increasing "the number of Georgia's children and families who have access to quality early care and learning programs."



Region	COUNT	Portfolios in Progress	Portfolio Pending Approval	Portfolios Approved
Region 1	191	113	2	1
Region 2	211	110		
Region 3	151	83		
Region 4	166	98		
Region 5	148	88	1	1
Region 6	185	112	1	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>



# Georgia Program for Infant and Toddler Care



- 6 Specialists
- Technical Assistance
  - 68 Sites
- Professional Development
  - 15 Statewide Conferences
  - 5 Library Conferences
  - Director Webinars
- Website
- Mentor Program
- Partnerships with South Carolina and Virginia



# Quest for Quality Inclusion



- Statewide Inclusion Coordinators – 10
  - Offer training and technical assistance to help families, child care providers, and others identify resources, services, and supports to ensure that children are successfully included in early care and learning environments.
- From July 1 through October 31:
  - Conducted 164 inclusion trainings to 2,960 participants
  - Fulfilled 628 requests for phone/Internet-based technical assistance
  - Provided onsite inclusion technical assistance to 289 programs



# Scholarships and Incentives



## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Provides educational assistance for Georgia's early childhood educators pursuing credentials or degrees in early childhood education or child development
- 1,358 unique recipients awarded \$733,981 in tuition, fees, and direct stipends

## **INCENTIVES**

- Provides a salary supplement to reward early childhood educators for their educational attainment and for remaining employed in the same child care program for 12 consecutive months
- 1,508 unique recipients awarded \$952,250 in amounts ranging from \$250 (CDA) to \$1,250 (masters and above)



# Accreditation Support



Child care programs wanting to earn or renew national accreditation receive services funded by DECAL to help them prepare for and complete the application or renewal process.

- 34 programs receive technical assistance and support for NAEYC accreditation.





**QUALITY  
RATED**

**Georgia's systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early education and school-age care programs.**



# Quality Rated Features



- 3-Star System
- Online System
- Cohorts
  - Latino
  - Montessori
  - Discovery Point
  - Goddard
  - Early Learning Care Group
  - The Sunshine House
  - KinderCare
- Incentives
- Professional Development
- Technical Assistance



# Quality Rated Participation Data



**1,064 programs have applied to participate in Quality Rated (17% of programs)**

- 415 programs with Georgia Pre-K classrooms
- 123 Head Start grantees
- 125 counties represented





# Quality Rated Child Data



- **77,836 children in participating programs**
- 1,995 children with disabilities
- 3,597 dual language learners
- 57 children of migrant workers
- 945 children living in foster homes
- 289 children who are homeless
- **12,314 children receiving child care subsidies (CAPS)**
- 10,535 children receiving PeachCare for Kids



# Your Feedback



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# Contact Information



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**Quality Rated Help Desk**  
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**Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

