



For Immediate Release
April 20, 2020

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Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning receives \$250K grant to support existing child care programs and families

ATLANTA, Ga., (April 20, 2020) –The Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning (Foundation), the nonprofit arm of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) was recently awarded a \$250,000 grant provided by the Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Recovery and Response Fund, a partnership between the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and United Way of Greater Atlanta. The grant funding will provide direct assistance to child care programs and families located within the 23-county Atlanta metro area by addressing two critical needs: child care assistance for essential workers and financial assistance for child care providers.

“Many essential workers need child care during the crisis and may struggle to pay the cost. We intend to provide additional child care scholarships to eligible essential workers with this funding,” said Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. “The grant will also enable one-time payments to open and closed child care programs to help cover ongoing expenses or lost revenues.”

The grant application will launch April 23 on the Foundation’s website, www.gaeearlyed.org, and close on April 30.

“The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and United Way of Greater Atlanta have been tremendous partners during this global epidemic,” said Carrie Ashbee, executive Director of the Foundation. “This funding will empower shuttered child care programs to open their doors once again as parents get back to work. Likewise, it will provide immediate support to providers who were able to stay open and care for children of essential employees as they worked on the front lines during this crisis.”

For more information on this grant and other funding opportunities, please visit www.gaeearlyed.org.

About Georgia Foundation of Early Care + Learning

Formed in 2017 by Governor Nathan Deal and the Georgia General Assembly, the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that aims to strategically enhance children’s early education experience to promote their academic, social-emotional and physical development in partnership with families, communities, the early care and education industry and stakeholders.

About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs and manages the voluntary quality enhancement programs. The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.decal.ga.gov.