



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

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DECAL supports Georgia Child Care Programs with
\$92 million in CARES Funding for 2020**

Funds Mitigate Financial Impact of COVID-19

ATLANTA, Ga., (December 14, 2020) – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has announced it has awarded over \$92 million in CARES funding to licensed child care programs in Georgia impacted by COVID-19. In the first round of STABLE (Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities) payments, DECAL awarded more than \$38.8 million in financial support to 3,789 licensed child care providers. A second round recently awarded \$54 million to 3,677 providers. The money paid out so far represents about 2/3 of the \$144 million Georgia received this year under the federal Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs said because the number of providers applying for the assistance was lower in the second round, payments were increased by 25-percent. Providers should receive their payments just in time for the holidays. Jacobs said the second round of STABLE payments are being paid to licensed child care providers who are open and serving families based on their attendance in October 2020. DECAL will determine what to do with the remaining funding early next year.

“We know that family child care learning homes and child care learning centers in Georgia are struggling as a result of COVID-19,” said Commissioner Jacobs. “To expedite these payments, we developed a simple application asked for attendance by age and by program, including the CAPS program and Georgia’s Pre-K Program.”

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Governor Brian P. Kemp has allowed licensed child care to remain open to serve children and families. However, with more families staying at home, child care attendance significantly declined except for children of first responders and essential workers.

About DECAL

The 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 and federal nutrition programs; and manages Quality Rated, Georgia's community-powered child care rating system.

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.dec.al.ga.gov.