



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

**Brian P. Kemp**  
Governor

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STABLE 4WARD Opens October 18 for  
Licensed Georgia Child Care Providers**

*Funds Will Help Mitigate Financial Impact of COVID-19*

**ATLANTA, Ga., (October 11, 2021)** – Beginning October 18, 2021, all licensed Georgia child care providers are encouraged to apply for a fourth round of STABLE (Short-Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities) from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). Funding for STABLE 4WARD comes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed by Congress earlier this year and will help child care providers and families with workforce support, child care tuition relief, costs of facilities, supplies, materials, and food.

According to DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs, approximately \$871 million will be paid to licensed child care programs, providers with temporary licenses and at least one initial licensing visit, and partners for Early Head Start grantees. DECAL has developed a fair and equitable formula for determining the amount of each STABLE 4WARD payment.

To date, DECAL has distributed more than \$144 million in emergency funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and over \$107 million in emergency funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act to help provide child care assistance to frontline workers and help stabilize the child care market.

This includes \$165 million in three rounds of STABLE payments; \$34 million in POWER payments, \$26 million in ACCESS payments, \$19 million in CAPS emergency policy payments, \$4 million in SHARE grants and \$3 million for the CAPS essential services workforce priority group.

“Licensed child care providers who are open and operating can apply for this special funding beginning October 18, 2021,” said Commissioner Jacobs. “We call it STABLE 4WARD because it is the fourth round of payments to help support child care providers and families as we slowly emerge from the pandemic.”

DECAL will provide more in-depth information about the payments and the application process in a webinar on October 13th. Questions about STABLE 4WARD can be e-mailed to [stable@decalfga.gov](mailto:stable@decalfga.gov).

### **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.decalfga.gov](http://www.decalfga.gov).