

Quality Rated Provider Webinar 2027 Updates

August 25, 2026
12:00-1:00 PM



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

Overview



- 2026 QR Progress Report
- What's New for 2027
- Looking Ahead





2026 QR Progress Report

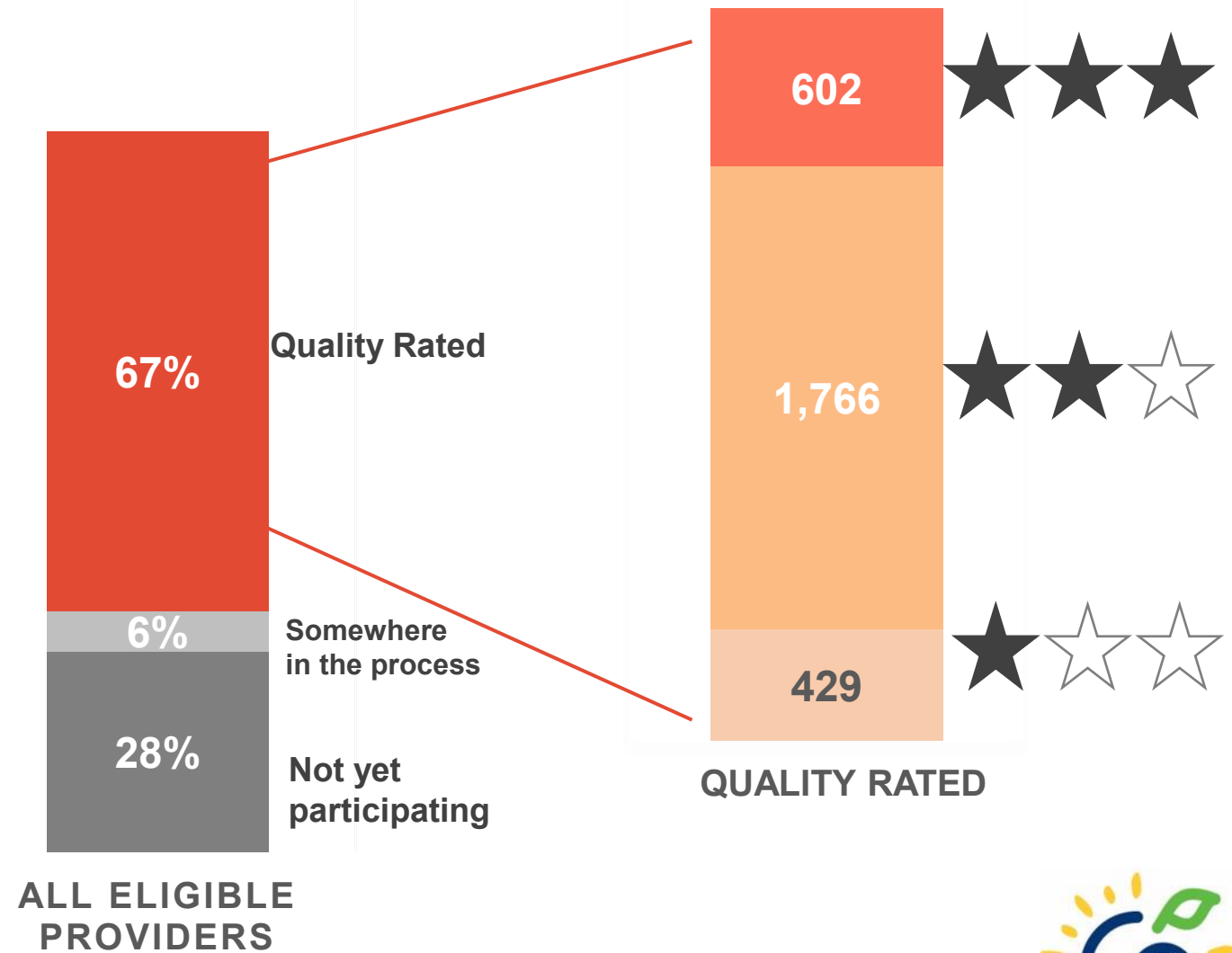


Quality Rated by the Numbers

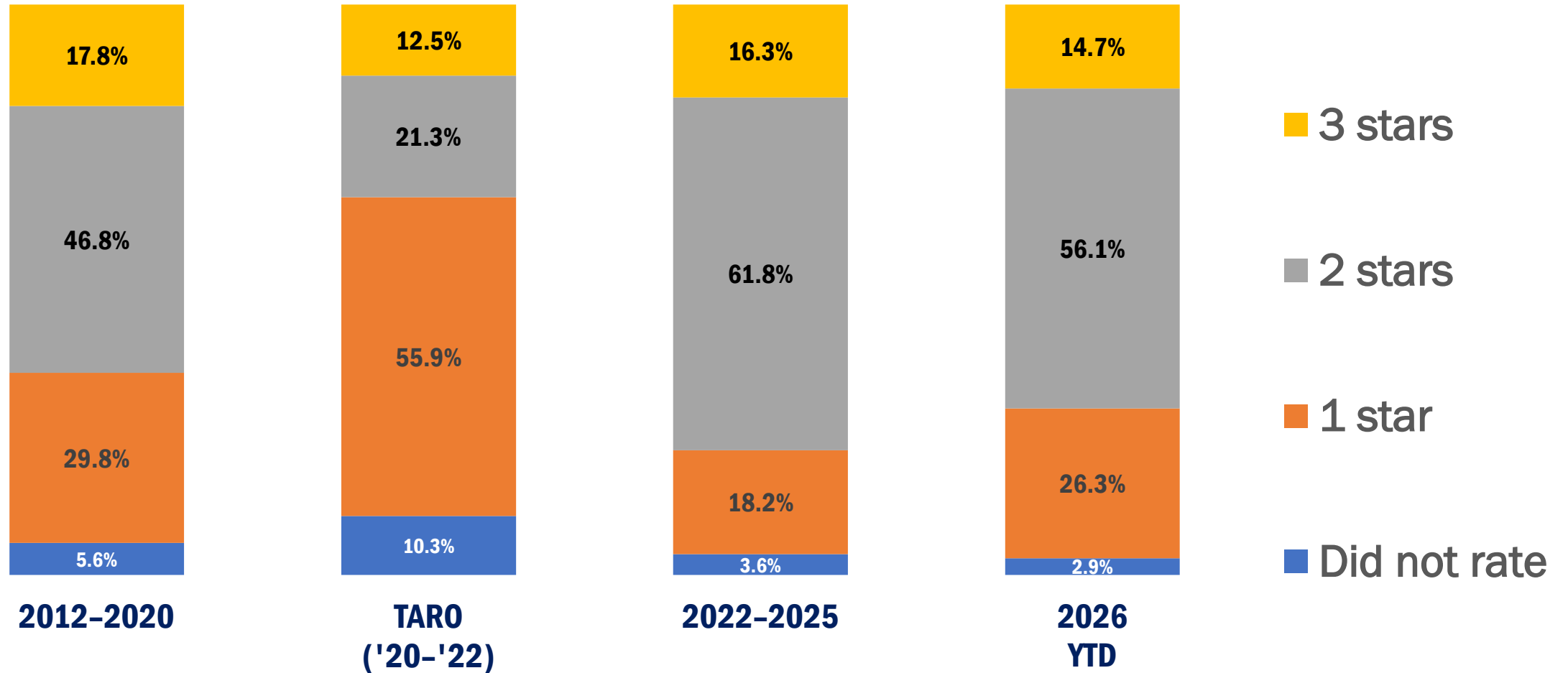


CALi Says:

All Quality Rated providers meet or exceed demanding care and education standards. Learn more at www.QualityRated.org.



Distribution of Ratings Over Time



Quality Rated Workforce Bonus

2026 QRWB Bonus Update (Jan – Jul 2026)*



14,470

Applications



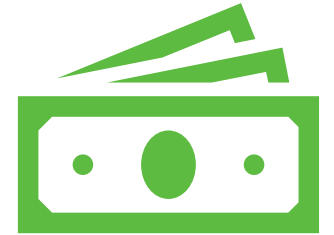
11,105

QRWB recipients



78%

of eligible providers
have had staff apply for
QRWB so far in 2026



\$5.5 million

distributed

**July applications are still being processed.*



QRWB Survey Overview

Purpose

- Evaluate the effectiveness and perceived impact of the QRWB program
- Understand recipients' experiences with the program and application process
- Identify opportunities to strengthen future implementation
- Gather feedback from Child Care Staff, CCLC Directors, and FCCLH Owners

Participation

- Child Care Staff: 8,723 respondents — 44% response rate
- CCLC Directors: 1,003 respondents — 45% response rate
- FCCLH Owners: 141 respondents — 46% response rate

Nearly 9,900 responses across the three surveys.



Quality Rated Advisory Committee

- 25 providers/owners
- 8 community partners/advocacy organizations

2026 Committee Meetings

- Qtr. 1 - March, Atlanta
- Qtr. 2 - June, Warner Robins
- Qtr. 3 - September, Athens
- Qtr. 4 - December, TBA



Quality Rated Family Support Call Center



- Launched July 1, 2025. Since then:
 - Received over 5,600 calls
 - **84% of providers referred to families were Quality Rated**

Make sure your program information is up-to-date in KOALA so we can provide accurate information to families looking for child care.

Need help updating? Give us a call!





What's New for 2027





Updates at a Glance

CAPS/QR Provisional Status

Cohorts 2027

Streamlining the Scoring Grid

Portfolio Standard 2

Portfolio Verification Pilot

Integrity and Accountability
Framework

Changes to CAPS/QR Provisional Status

NEW: Initial CAPS Provisional Status

- licensed child care provider, new to CAPS and in the process of becoming Quality Rated for the first time
- 12-month grace period to receive scholarships while seeking their first rating

Enrolled Prior to September 1 2026	Enrolled September 1 2026 and After (Streamlined process)
• Complete CAPS application • Create QR account • Seek free technical assistance from local CCR&R • Required to complete Benchmarks of Practice (BoP) Plan assigned by QR staff • Required to complete specific QR training in addition to expected training within the QR portfolio • Monitored by QR staff for ongoing progress and reported to CAPS program • Placed in rating group by Quality Rated staff • Complete rating components – portfolio and ERS assessment by rating group deadlines	• Complete CAPS application • Create QR account • Seek free technical assistance from local CCR&R • Within your QR account, select the rating cohort of your choice to enroll in • Complete rating components – portfolio and ERS assessment by rating cohort deadlines ✓ No BoP ✓ No additional training requirements ✓ No tracking, progress monitoring, or reporting to CAPS



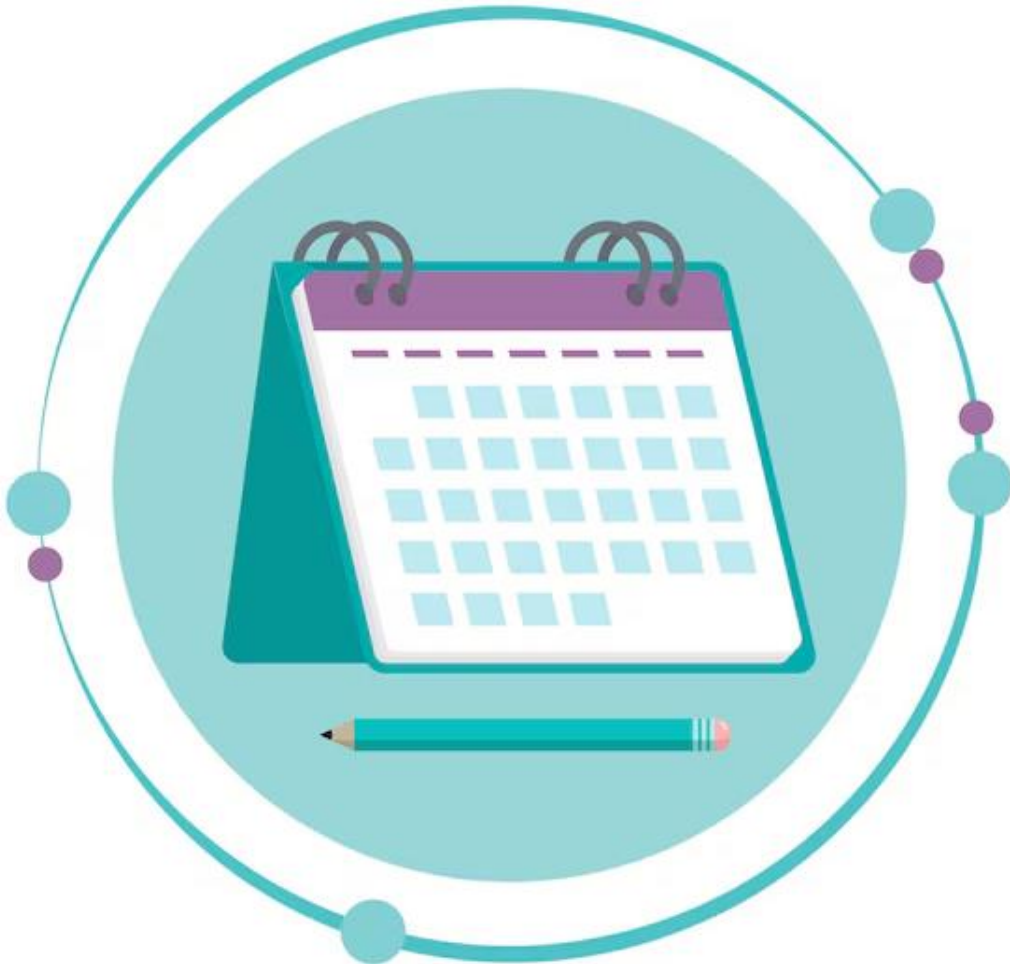
2027 Cohorts

Access 2027 Cohort Information
Complete and submit new application

Monday, September 28, 2026
Cohort Slots released to *Expiring 2027 Programs*

Monday, October 20, 2026
Remaining slots released to all other providers,
including *CAPS Provisional providers* not already
assigned to a group

Requests to Rerate Early
Consider current staff needs, time factors,
possible change of ownership/location, and
most recent CQI reports



2027 Cohort Dates

2027 Cohort	Slot Availability	Submission Window Start Date	Submission Window End Date	Observation Window Start Date	Observation Window End Date
1	Center Slots 255 Family Slots 65	11.20.2026	12.4.2026 NOON	1.7.2027	3.31.2027
2	Center Slots 255 Family Slots 60	2.19.2027	3.5.2027 Noon	4.5.2027	6.30.2027
3	Center Slots 250 Family Slots 60	5.21.2027	6.4.2027 Noon	7.7.2027	9.30.2027
4	Center Slots 245 Family Slots 65	8.20.2027	9.3.2027 Noon	10.4.2027	12.30.2027

Rating Announcement Window: Rating announced within 8 weeks following the last ERS observation.

Quality Rated Portfolio Update

Portfolio Standard 2

Effective September 1, 2026



What is changing?

Portfolio Standard 2 renamed:

Child Well-Being

Within the standard, Item 2.2 will become *Child Well-Being Training*.

CPR training will no longer earn portfolio credit because DECAL licensing rules now require it for all direct care staff.



Important portfolio dates

AUG 28–31 Portfolio unavailable* → **SEPT 1** Reopens at midnight

All information currently in your portfolio will be retained except Standard 2, 2.2.



What training can earn points?

Any DECAL-approved training focused on:



Nutrition



Physical activity



Children's mental health



Language & literacy

Requirement remains the same

60% • 70% • 80% of staff

4 hours completed
within the 12 months
before portfolio
submission

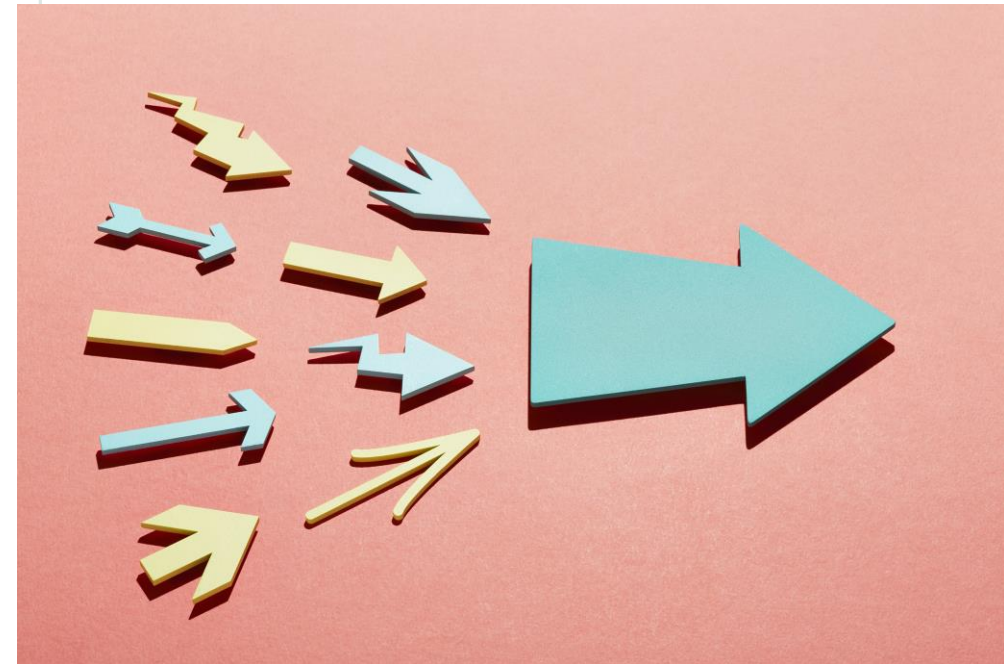
*Cohort 4 2026 and Group 4 2026 are excluded from the freeze and the changes to Item 2.2.

WHY THE SCORING IS BEING UPDATED

Making Star Ratings Clearer and More Meaningful

A rating should reflect both what a program submits, and the classroom experiences children receive.

- Quality Rated combines points from the portfolio and classroom observations.
- Under the current formula, portfolio points alone can sometimes reach a star threshold.
- Extra “red rules” prevent that outcome, but they can be hard to explain.
- The proposed update fixes the formula itself, making the rating easier to understand.



THE GOAL A clear, fair rating connected to program quality.

PROPOSED SCORING GRID CHANGES

What Changes and What Stays the Same

The update strengthens the math while keeping the core Quality Rated approach in place.



WHAT CHANGES

- Star-rating thresholds increase by 5 points.
- Classroom observation scores are meaningfully included at every star level rather than having separate rules.
- Accreditation Points become part of the overall portfolio points for the structural quality score.
- Most providers would not see a rating change based on current data.



WHAT STAYS THE SAME

- Programs still earn points through the portfolio and classroom observations.
- DECAL remains focused on recognizing and supporting quality improvement.
- No individual classroom can score below 3.0 to receive a 2- or 3-star rating.

Clearer • More transparent • More meaningful

Portfolio Verification Pilot

COMING IN 2027

We're beginning to explore what a pilot could look like, shaped by stakeholder feedback and thoughtful planning.

Listening

- Introduced to CCR&Rs for feedback

Engaging

- Discussion with the QR Advisory Committee

Designing

- Structure is still taking shape
- Target: Begin Pilot in 2nd half of 2027



The Quality Rated Integrity & Accountability Framework



Gives DECAL, child care providers, and families a new way to think and talk about the Quality Rated system



The Umbrella of Quality Rated Integrity & Accountability

Collaboration throughout DECAL

Assessor Reliability

Quality Standards Oversight for Rating Transfers

Standardized Rating Process

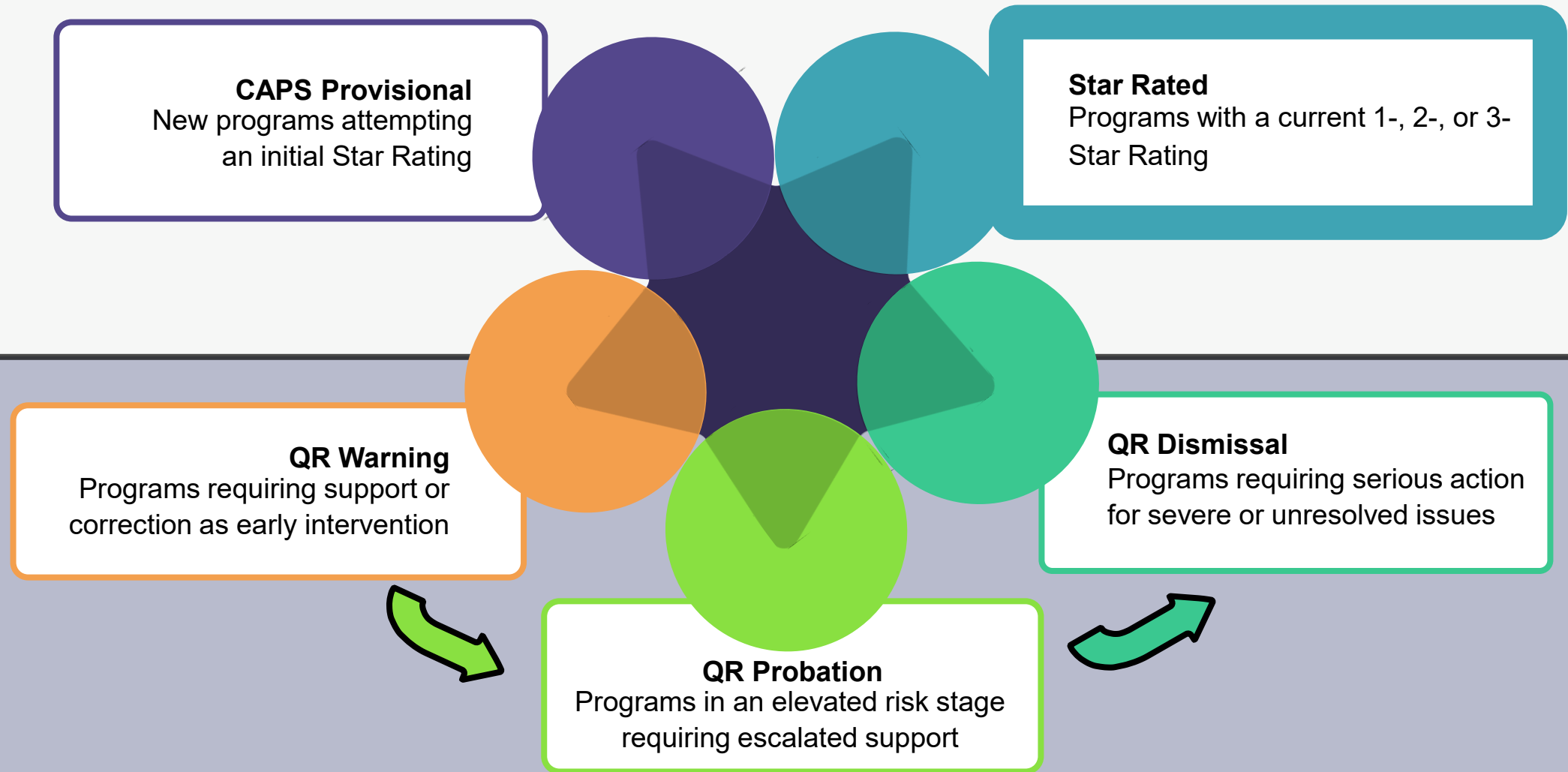
Portfolio Verification and Support Check-ins

Quality Rated Payments Stewardship

Progressive Quality Assurance Actions



Quality Rated Operational Designations



PROGRESSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY DESIGNATIONS



Overview of Progressive Accountability Designations



QR Warning

Purpose: First level of concern

Focus: Support + Correction

Accountability Action: Star Rating
Suspended



QR Probation

Purpose: For serious or unresolved issues

Focus: Structured intervention +
intensive support

Accountability Action: Star Rating
Terminated



QR Dismissal

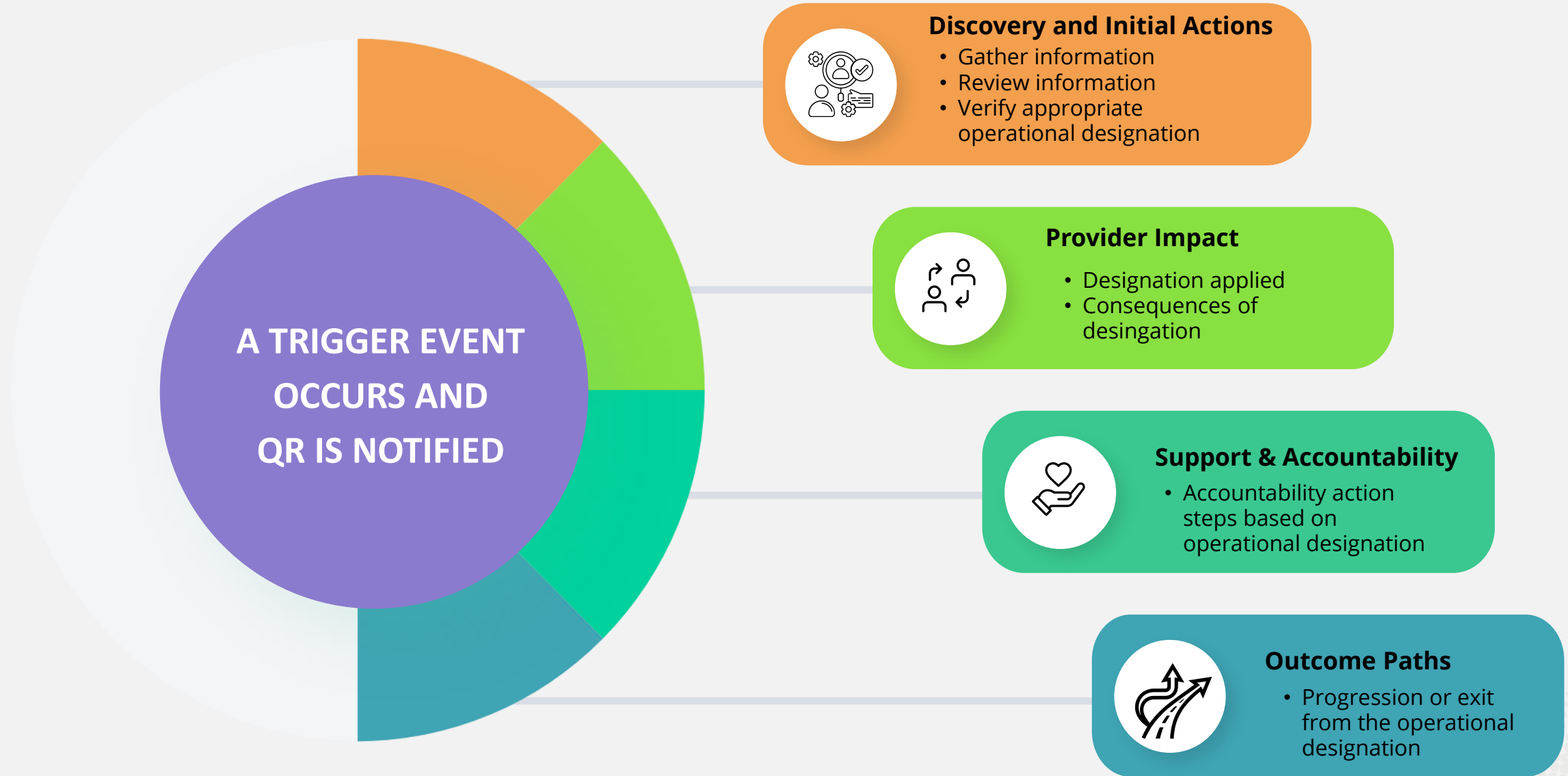
Purpose: Most serious action for severe
or unresolved issues

Focus: Accountability & system integrity

Accountability Action: QR Account
Closed After Review



Stages: Progressive Accountability Designations





Coming Soon: A Look Ahead



Quality Study and Revisions

Examines the quality of early care and education programs across Georgia. Child Trends is a partner.

Recruitment goals were exceeded for CCLCs and stand-alone afterschool programs, but not for FCCLHs.

Data collection completed. Reports expected in FY27.

**Quality Rated
REVISIONS Coming
Soon**





 **&A TIME!**

**Got questions?
We've got answers!**





Contact Us

QR Provider Help Desk:

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