

Applicant Webinar: 2Gen Community Grants 2027-2029

October 8, 2026



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of Early Care
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Today's Webinar

Opening/ DECAL Overview

Jill Taylor

Background & Overview of Grants

**2Gen Community Grants:
Planning & Implementation**

Application Guidelines

Focus Areas

The Basics

Bridget Ratajczak

Grant Application Walk-Through

Hannah Smith

Resources & Concluding Thoughts

Jill Taylor

Q & A



What You'll Leave With Today



Understand the purpose and goals of 2Gen Community Grants



Know whether a Planning Grant or Implementation Grant is the best fit for your community



Understand what it means to implement a 2Gen approach and how to demonstrate that approach consistently throughout your application



Know the application process, guidelines, and important deadlines



Have resources and contacts to support your next steps



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning



Total Budget over \$1.2B



One of a few states with
a distinct department
dedicated to early
childhood education



Administers, supports,
and regulates critical
early education
programs that support
families



Programs within DECAL

- Georgia's Pre-K Program
- Child Care Licensing
- Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), Georgia's subsidy program
- Quality Rated, Georgia's quality rating and improvement system
- Nutrition Services
- Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Initiatives related to 2Gen, Community Resources, Inclusion and Behavior Supports, Infants and Toddlers, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH), Workforce Development and Professional Learning, Research



DECAL's Funding Opportunity 2Gen Community Grants



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Before You Apply

Organizational Readiness:

- Does your organization meet DECAL's eligibility requirements?
- Do you have a clear understanding of the children, families, and community needs you hope to address?
- Do you have the staff capacity and organizational commitment to manage this grant over the full project period?
- Are you prepared to engage families as partners in this project?
- Do you have current or potential partners who can help you achieve meaningful two-generation outcomes?
- Can you realistically implement and sustain the proposed activities if funding is awarded?



What Do We Mean By 2Gen (Two-Generation)?

Two-Generation (2Gen) approaches support children and the adults in their lives together.

In your project plan, consider these questions:

- How can we support children and the adults in their lives together?
- How can families help shape our approach?
- How can we create opportunities for BOTH generations?
- How can we work across partners and systems to support the whole family?

2Gen is not a program. It is about intentionally connecting strategies and opportunities to support the whole family.



About DECAL's 2Gen Community Grants

- Funded by Georgia's Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)
- Grants are reimbursable grants
- Eligible applicants: 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organizations, school systems, and government entities
- Two styles of grants: Planning & Implementation
- Focus on children from birth to age 8 and the adults in their lives
- Proposal must include a focus area, 2Gen approach, and a plan to incorporate The Basics
- 2Gen Community Grants will replace the Community Impact Grants



A poster for 2Gen Community Grants. The background features a group of hands stacked together in a circle, with a green swoosh above them. The text '2GEN COMMUNITY GRANTS' is in a green speech bubble. To the right, two green boxes with arrows describe the grant types: 'Planning Grants' (Up to \$50,000 for 12 months) and 'Implementation Grants' (Up to \$125,000 for 24 months). Below this, a green bar lists eligible entities: 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations, School Systems, and Government Entities, each with a checkmark. A large circular logo with a stylized 'G' and a leaf is on the right. At the bottom, it states 'Applications Open: Oct. 2, 2026 - Nov. 2, 2026' and 'Grant Term Begins: July 1, 2027'. The Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning logo is in the bottom right corner.

2GEN COMMUNITY GRANTS

Planning Grants
Up to \$50,000
for 12 months

Implementation Grants
Up to \$125,000
for 24 months

✓ 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations
✓ School Systems
✓ Government Entities

Applications Open:
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Grant Term Begins:
July 1, 2027

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Purposes of 2Gen Community Grants

- Support community-specific solutions and innovations that:
 - address critical local needs
 - help families access resources related to high-quality early learning
 - build strong community support systems
 - close possible opportunity gaps
 - enhance the well-being of families

Programs funded by this grant **will be required to create cross-sector collaboration** among community organizations that serve both adults and children.



Which 2Gen Grant is Right for Your Community?

Planning Grant	Implementation Grant
What do we need to learn?	What are we ready to implement?
Who needs to be at the table?	How will partners work together?
How will families help design the solution?	How will families help implement and evaluate it?
What strategy should we develop?	What strategy will we implement?
What partnerships need to be built?	What partnerships are already in place?
What will we accomplish through planning?	What outcomes will we achieve?



Focus Areas

- Early Childhood Access
- Family Well-Being
- Family Literacy
- Student Parent Success
- Family Economic Mobility
- Early Childhood Workforce
- Rural Community Solutions
- Other Community-Identified Needs



Applicants **must select 1 focus area** and may select 2 focus areas that reflect the needs and priorities identified by their community.



The Basics

- Applicants should describe their organization's current experience with The Basics.
- Grant funds may be used for implementation of The Basics, such as texting subscriptions, parent/caregiver workshop materials, printing and educational resources, and family engagement supplies.
- All 2Gen Community Grant recipients will be required to participate in DECAL-provided training on The Basics during the grant period and incorporate this training into the work of their project(s).

You can learn more about The Basics here: <https://thebasics.org/>



Want To Know More About The Basics?



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The Basics Principles

- Five fun, simple, and powerful ways that every family can **give every child a strong start.**
- Encompass most of what experts say is important for development in the first few years of life.
- Find a 4-minute video on each Principle at toolkit.thebasics.org



**Maximize Love,
Manage Stress**



**Talk, Sing, and
Point**



**Count, Group, and
Compare**



**Explore through
Movement and Play**



**Read and Discuss
Stories**



How Grant Funds May Be Used

Administrative	Contracted Services	Student Parent Education
Child Care Support	Food for Approved Activities	Fringe Benefits
Marketing & Outreach	Materials & Supplies	Rental Space
Stipends & Incentives	Technology	Transportation/Travel
Training/Professional Development	Salary	The Basics

All expenses must be reasonable, necessary, and directly related to the proposed project.



Grant Funds: What is Not Allowable?

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Activities outside the proposed project
- Food and meals
- General organizational expenses that are not directly related to the grant project
- Membership fees
- Participation incentives or gift cards that do not meet DECAL's grant requirements
- Personal-use technology or equipment
- Capital improvements, construction, or major renovations
- Direct child care payments, except when specifically allowable for eligible grant-related events
- Costs already supported by another funding source (no duplication of funding)
- Activities or purchases that are not necessary to achieve the project outcomes



Interested in Applying for the 2Gen Community Funding Opportunity?

How to Apply?

- Applications must be submitted using SurveyMonkey Apply
- Create a SurveyMonkey Apply account or login using current credentials.
- Applications must be submitted by November 2, 2026, no later than 5:00 p.m.
- Successful applicants must respond to all prompts and questions on the application, following the maximum word guidelines, where applicable.



Planning grant:

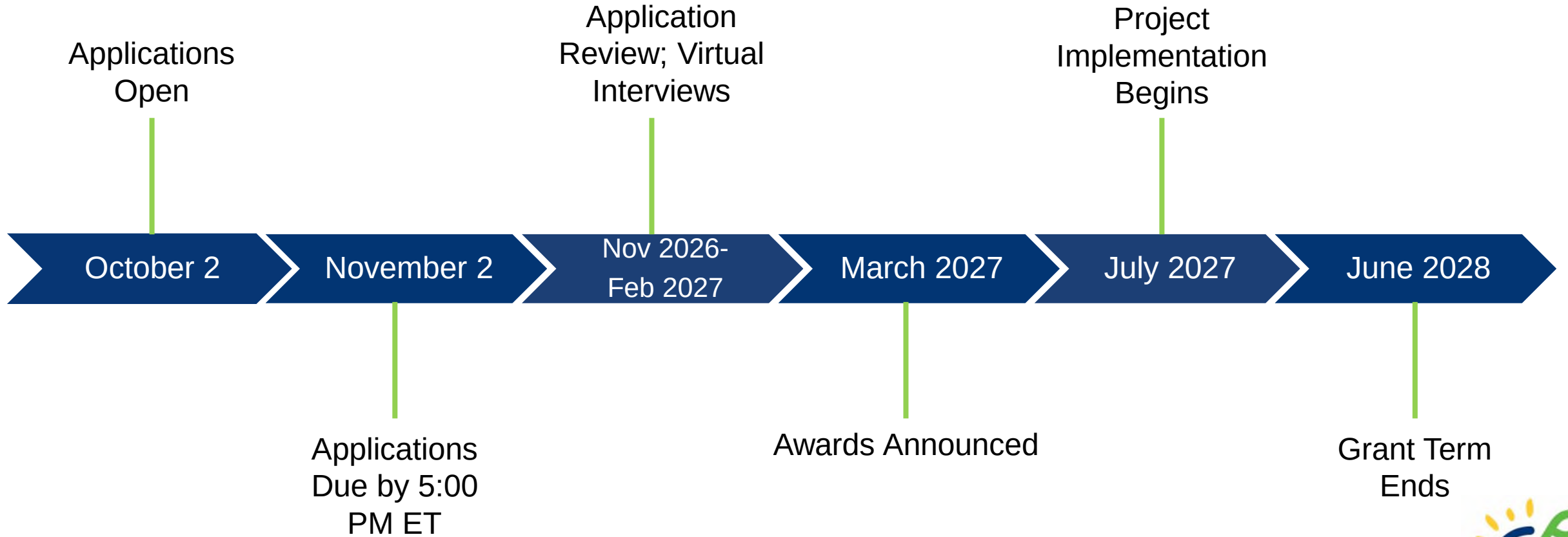
https://decal.smapply.us/prog/2GenCommunityGrants_Planning

Implementation grant:

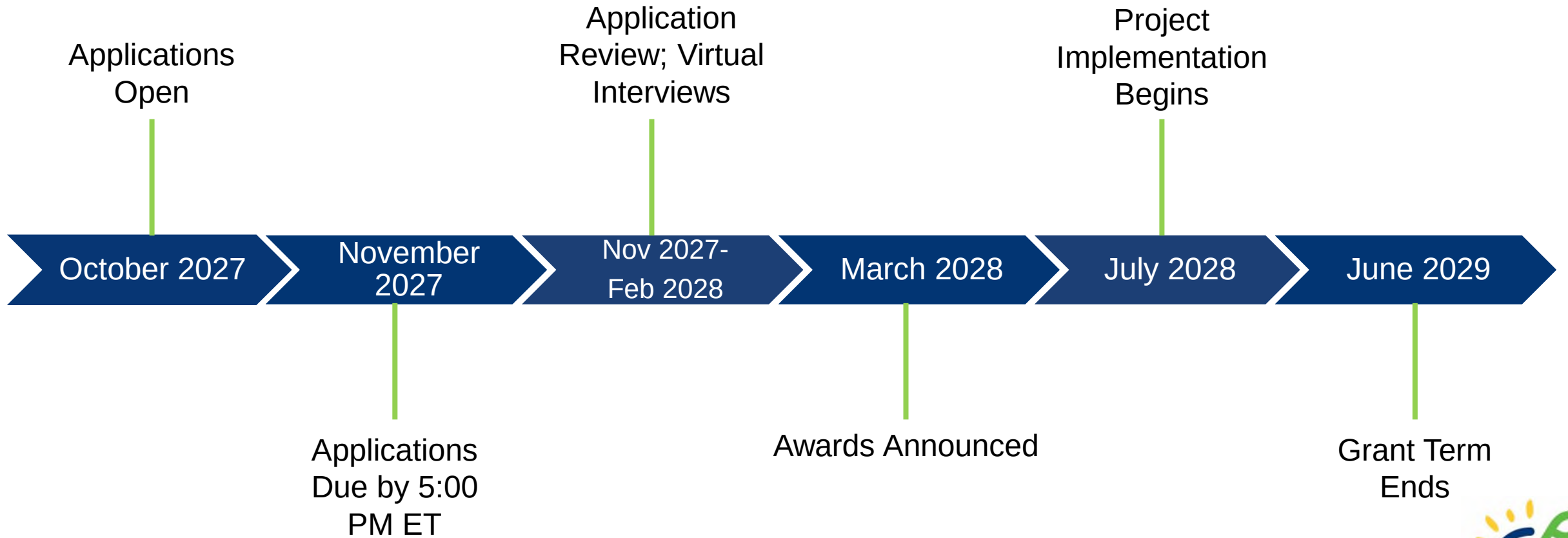
https://decal.smapply.us/prog/2GenCommunityGrants_Implementation



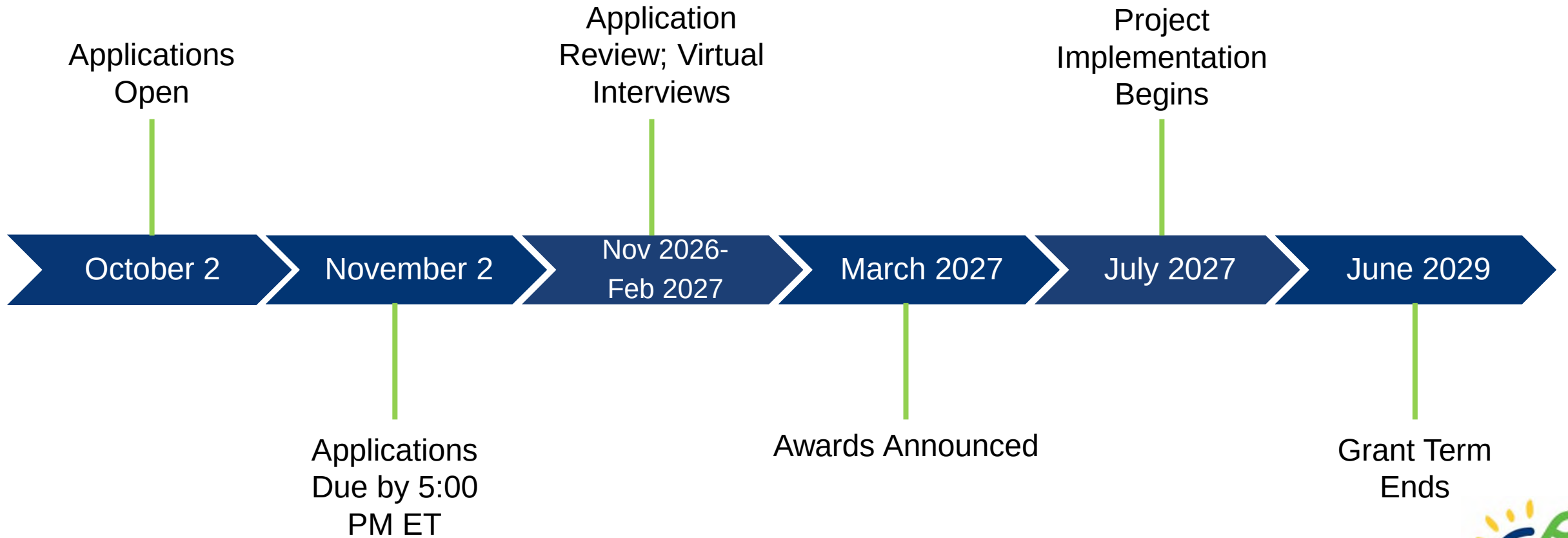
Grants Timeline – Planning Grants- Round 1



Grants Timeline – Planning Grants- Round 2



Grants Timeline – Implementation Grants



Before Submitting Your Application

Ask your project team:

- Did we clearly identify the community need?
- Did we use data and community voice?
- Is the 2Gen approach clear?
- Are partners meaningfully involved?
- Is family voice evident?
- Are activities connected to outcomes?
- Are our outcomes measurable?
- Does the budget support the proposed activities?
- Is the project realistic for the grant period?



What Makes a Strong Application?

Community Need

Less developed: “Our community needs more support for families.”

More developed: “Local data show that ____ families in our county face ____, while community listening sessions identified ____ as a significant barrier. Families and local partners identified ____ as a priority.”

2Gen Approach

Less developed: “Parents will receive resources while children participate in literacy activities.”

More developed: “Children will participate in early literacy activities while parents receive opportunities to strengthen their own literacy skills and build strategies for supporting learning at home. Families will help shape the program through...”



Concluding Thoughts

- These are competitive grants, and proposals may or may not be recommended for funding.
- There is limited funding
- Applicants can apply for more than one grant
- Proposals will be reviewed and scored by a team of trained DECAL staff.
- Approval of an application does not indicate that all activities will be funded as requested.
- DECAL will provide support to grantees
 - Assist with grant agreements and grant-required documentation to be collected throughout the grant term
 - Invite grantees to join meetings with other grantees and DECAL Subject Matter Partners



Resources

- All things DECAL: <https://www.decald.ga.gov/>
 - How to find licensed child care by county: <https://families.decald.ga.gov/>
 - Quality Rated Family Support Call Center at **1-877-ALL-GA-KIDS**
 - DECAL FAST- Family Access to Services and Tools - [DECAL FAST](#)
- Stay connected to DECAL:
 - Social Media
 - DECAL Community Coordinators
 - Email communitypartnershipsteam@decald.ga.gov



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Q & A

- Type questions in the Q&A
- Webinar recording will be posted here:
<https://www.decal.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx>
- Email grant questions to
CommunityImpactGrants@decal.ga.gov
- Email application questions to research@decal.ga.gov



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