



2027-2029 2GEN COMMUNITY GRANTS
ADVANCING TWO-GENERATION STRATEGIES ACROSS GEORGIA

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CARE AND LEARNING (DECAL)
2027-2029 2GEN COMMUNITY GRANT
APPLICATION GUIDELINES

APPLICATION RELEASE DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2026
WEBINAR: OCTOBER 8, 2026
GRANT APPLICATION DUE: NOVEMBER 2, 2026

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ABOUT GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CARE AND LEARNING: The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) 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 improve the quality and availability of child care, and works with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations statewide to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.decaldga.gov.

ABOUT DECAL'S 2GEN COMMUNITY GRANTS: The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is committed to investing in local partnerships and innovative solutions that improve outcomes for children from birth to age 8 and their families across Georgia. Through this funding opportunity, communities may apply for either a **Planning Grant** or an **Implementation Grant** to address locally identified needs and strengthen early childhood systems. Through these investments, DECAL seeks to support communities in building strong partnerships, creating opportunities for families to thrive, and developing sustainable systems that improve outcomes for Georgia's children and families. Applicants may propose projects focused on one or more focus areas, including early childhood access, family well-being, family literacy, student parent success, family economic mobility, early childhood workforce, rural community solutions, or other community-identified needs.

All funded projects must utilize a Two-Generation (2Gen) approach that intentionally supports the needs of children and the adults in their lives simultaneously. Successful applicants will demonstrate how their proposed strategies strengthen family well-being by addressing the interconnected needs of parents/caregivers and children together. Projects should align with core 2Gen principles, including family-centered design, cross-sector collaboration, family voice and leadership, and a commitment to improving outcomes for both generations. To learn more about 2Gen principles, you can visit Ascend at the Aspen Institute's website here: <https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/2gen-approach/guiding-principles/>.

The 2Gen Community Grants are reimbursable grants. For more information on these grants, interested applicants can **join the Applicant Webinar: 2Gen Community Grants 2027-2029 on October 8, 2026, at 3pm.** Click [here](#) to register.

2Gen Community Grant: Planning Grants (12 months)

Planning Grants support communities that are in the early stages of developing partnerships, assessing community needs, engaging families, and designing strategies to improve outcomes for children and families. Funding may be used to conduct community assessments, facilitate stakeholder engagement, develop action plans, establish partnerships, and prepare for future implementation efforts.

2Gen Community Grant: Implementation Grants (24 months)

Implementation Grants support communities that are ready to launch, expand, or strengthen evidence-informed strategies that improve outcomes for children and families. Funding may be used to implement new programs and services, expand access to resources, strengthen community partnerships, build local systems, and advance sustainable solutions that address community needs through a 2Gen framework.

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Key Difference in Planning Grants and Implementation Grants

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?

Eligible Applicants

- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organizations, school systems, and government entities
- Must be in good standing with DECAL Programs

Grant Selection Process

DECAL will review eligible applications using the criteria and requirements outlined in the funding opportunity grant guidelines. The grant selection process will include an initial application review by a team at DECAL followed by a virtual interview for applicants whose applications receive the highest scores during the initial review. Applicants whose applications receive the highest scores during the initial review will be invited to participate in a virtual interview as part of the final grant selection process. The interview will give DECAL an opportunity to learn more about the proposed project, community need, two-generation approach, partnerships, and anticipated outcomes. Applicants invited to interview will receive additional information regarding the interview process and expectations.

Following the interviews, DECAL will complete the final selection process based on the application, interview, and other applicable grant requirements. An invitation to participate in a virtual interview does not guarantee that an applicant will receive funding.

Funding Awards

Planning Grants - 2 Rounds of Planning Grants

Year 1(Round 1): DECAL will award grants up to \$50,000 each for a term of 12 months (2027-2028).

Year 2 (Round 2): DECAL will award grants up to \$50,000 each for a term of 12 months. (2028-2029).

Implementation Grants- 1 Round of Implementation Grants

DECAL will award grants up to \$125,000 each for a term of 24 months (2027-2029).

Year 1: \$75,000, Year 2: \$50,000

DECAL's Total Investment for the Community Impact Grants will be up to \$1,500,000.

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Application: Focus Areas

Applicants may select one or two focus areas that reflect the needs and priorities identified by their community. Regardless of the focus area selected, proposed projects should use a 2Gen approach that considers the needs and goals of both children and the adults who care for them.

Applicants will select 2Gen Focus Area(s):

1. Early Childhood Access

Community needs related to improving access to high-quality early childhood care, education, and development opportunities for young children and their families.

2. Family Well-Being

Community needs related to the social-emotional, behavioral, developmental, mental health, and overall well-being of children and the adults who care for them.

3. Family Literacy

Community needs related to strengthening literacy, learning, and educational opportunities for children and the adults who care for them.

4. Student Parent Success

Community needs related to helping parents with young children pursue and succeed in education, training, or career advancement while supporting their children's well-being and development.

5. Family Economic Mobility

Community needs related to helping parents and caregivers pursue education, employment, career advancement, and greater economic stability while supporting the well-being, development, and future opportunities of their young children.

6. Early Childhood Workforce

Community needs related to recruiting, supporting, developing, and retaining a strong early childhood workforce that provides quality care and education for young children and supports the families they serve.

7. Rural Community Solutions

Community needs related to addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities that are unique to rural communities and may affect children's and families' access to resources, services, and opportunities.

8. Other Community-Identified Needs

Community needs that are not adequately represented by the other focus areas but are identified by families, community partners, data, or other local sources as an important priority for children and the adults who care for them.

Grant Requirements

Grantees will commit to:

- Ensuring that an appropriate fiscal agent, such as a non-profit organization or government entity, is identified for oversight of any approved funds
- Developing and/or strengthening vital partnerships among community leaders who will support grant activities and outcomes
- Ensuring that all identified members of this grant attend kickoff meetings and quarterly meetings and participate in training opportunities offered by DECAL
- Supporting the development and implementation of proposed 2Gen Community Grant project plans

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- Assuring the completion and submission of 2Gen Community Grant Performance Reports, Expense Reports for Reimbursement, and evaluation metrics.
- Ensuring the completion and submission of the 2Gen Community Grant annual report(s).
- Participating in a 2Gen Community Grants evaluation.
- Proposed projects that are focused on creating new programs or new elements of existing programs. Proposed projects should not expand existing services of a currently funded project.
- Complete The Basics training with participating grant partners; Provide evidence of completion.

The Basics

All 2Gen Community Grant recipients are 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). The training is intended to provide grantees with a shared understanding of The Basics Principles and strategies for engaging families and community partners in supporting early learning and healthy development. Grantees will be expected to demonstrate how they will incorporate The Basics into their community engagement, family supports, partnership activities, or other grant-related work, as appropriate to their project. You can learn more about The Basics here: <https://thebasics.org/>

On the 2Gen Community Grant application, applicants will need to describe their organization's current experience with The Basics, if any, and for Implementation Grants, explain how they envision incorporating The Basics into their proposed project or broader community engagement efforts. Prior participation with The Basics is not required for the application and will not be necessary to receive a 2Gen Community Grant. Points are based on demonstrated understanding, readiness, existing organizational capacity, and the proposed use of The Basics, not simply on prior participation in training. DECAL will provide our grant recipient communities with the training, tools, and resources needed to make The Basics part of a broader community strategy.

More information on the role of The Basics in the 2Gen Community Grants will be covered during the webinar on October 8 at 3pm. Click [here](#) to register.

Permissible and Prohibited Uses of Funds

DECAL will review each grantee's proposed budget as part of the contract negotiation process prior to each grant term. Approved and prohibited uses of funds will be clearly identified before the grant award period begins. The following examples are intended to provide guidance to applicants and grantees; they are not exhaustive. All expenditures must be reasonable, necessary, directly related to the approved project, and included in the approved budget and Scope of Work. DECAL reserves the right to determine whether an expense is allowable.

Category	Examples of Permissible Uses
Administrative	Reasonable and necessary administrative costs directly related to the grant are allowable, including background checks, required licenses/fees, etc.

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Contracted Services	Expenses paid to external contractors, such as project managers, trainers, speakers, evaluators, or other providers of documented services directly related to the approved project.
Educational Expenses for Student Parents	Fees, materials, and/or supplies for parents enrolled in higher education. Other available financial aid, grants, scholarships, and institutional assistance must be pursued first. Grant funds may only be used for eligible expenses that remain unmet and may not duplicate assistance from another funding source.
Family Assistance for Child Care	Child care provided by a licensed child care program to support parent participation in grant-funded events, meetings, trainings, or other approved project activities. Payment must be made directly to the licensed child care program.
Food	Food may be allowable when it is an integral component of a grant-funded training, workshop, or educational activity, such as a demonstration.
Fringe Benefits	Non-salary benefits for staff directly associated with grant-funded salaries.
Marketing/Outreach	Reasonable printing, advertising, promotional, and outreach expenses directly related to the approved project.
Materials/Supplies	Reasonable and necessary materials and supplies directly related to the approved project.
Rental Space	Expenses for meeting, training, or office space directly related to the approved project.
Stipends/Incentives	May be used to recognize and support meaningful engagement by parents, participants, or community partners. Allowable incentives may include books, educational materials, learning resources, or other items that directly support the goals of the approved project. Stipends and incentives may not exceed 1% of the total grant award.
Technology	Technology and software may be purchased when directly supporting grant-approved activities, including virtual training, parent education, family engagement, provider activities, or designated parent resource areas.
Training/Professional Development	Expenses for registration fees, materials, certifications, and reasonable travel costs directly related to the approved project.
Transportation/Travel	Reasonable transportation/travel expenses directly related to participation in grant-funded activities, including mileage, parking, or other approved transportation costs.
Wages/Salary	Salaries must be proportional to the employee's time spent on grant activities and supported by appropriate documentation/timekeeping. Limited to 33% of the grant award amount
The Basics	Grant funds may be used for reasonable expenses that directly support the implementation of The Basics, such as texting subscriptions, parent/caregiver workshop materials, printing and educational resources, and family engagement supplies.

CTG funds for the following items are **prohibited**:

- Food and meals, except when specifically allowable for demonstration purposes as described above.
- Staff salaries for work unrelated to the approved CTG project.
- Regular or ongoing child care expenses, including regular child care tuition for parents or families.
- Child care payments made directly to parents or caregivers.
- Capital improvements, construction, or major renovations to buildings or facilities.
- Purchase or lease of vehicles.
- Gift cards or cash payments provided solely for attendance or participation.

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- Stipends and incentives exceeding 1% of the total grant award.
- Routine transportation or commuting expenses unrelated to a specific grant-funded activity.
- Technology purchased for personal use by staff, families, or individuals or for activities unrelated to the approved project.
- Office equipment and technology that are not necessary to perform the approved CTG activities are prohibited. Equipment that is necessary to perform approved CTG activities may require prior written approval from DECAL.
- Expenses that are reimbursed or paid by another funding source.
- Expenses incurred outside the approved grant period or not included in the approved budget or Scope of Work.
- Membership fees for The Basics.

Important: Inclusion of an expense in the examples above does not guarantee approval. All expenditures must be reasonable, necessary, directly related to the approved project, included in the approved budget, and consistent with the approved Scope of Work. **DECAL reserves the right to require prior written approval for specific purchases or expenditures.**

Timeline

Oct 2, 2026	Application opens; webinar date: October 8, 2026 Register here for the webinar: Applicant Webinar: 2Gen Community Grants 2027-2029 Join meeting in Teams Microsoft Teams
Nov 2, 2026	Application closes
Nov 2026 - Feb 2027	Application review
March 2027	Awards announced
April 2027	Grantee Orientation
Jul 1, 2027	2Gen Community Grant Cycle begins
Jun 30, 2029	2Gen Community Grants Grant Cycle ends

Application Submission

Applications must meet the following guidelines to be reviewed:

- Applications must be submitted using SurveyMonkey Apply
 - Applicants who do not have a SurveyMonkey Apply account already will be prompted to register for one. Once a SurveyMonkey Apply account has been created and the applicant has access to the application, the applicant will be prompted to click on "Instructions" for more information. The application must be completed entirely and accurately.
- Applications must be completed in FULL
- 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.

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Questions

DECAL will provide responses to questions that may be helpful to all applicants through the funding opportunity's FAQ or other shared communications.

Email questions about 2Gen Community Grants funding opportunity to communityimpactgrants@decalfga.gov.

Email questions about 2Gen Community Grants application in SurveyMonkey Apply to research@decalfga.gov.