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

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a 2Gen Approach? A Two-Generation approach intentionally supports children (birth to eight) and the adults in their lives together. 2Gen Community Grant projects should consider how proposed strategies can benefit children while also addressing the needs, goals, and strengths of families and caregivers.

What does DECAL mean by “community-identified needs”? A community-identified need is an issue or opportunity that has been identified through meaningful engagement with the people and organizations connected to the community. Applicants should use available data and community input to explain why the proposed issue is important. For example, an applicant might combine community data, family listening sessions, surveys, focus groups, partner discussions, or existing community assessments. The goal is to demonstrate that the proposed project responds to a real community priority.

Our organization has a great program idea. Is this grant a good fit? 2Gen Community Grants are designed to support locally identified needs and community-driven solutions. Applicants should not begin with the question, “*What program can we fund?*” Instead, begin by asking: What are children and families experiencing in our community, what are families telling us they need, and what can we accomplish together that we cannot accomplish alone? The proposed activities should then flow from those answers.

Do families have to be involved in the project? Yes. Because 2Gen Community Grants utilize a 2Gen approach, applicants should demonstrate how families and caregivers will have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the work. Family engagement should go beyond simply providing information or distributing a survey. Applicants should consider how families can help to identify community needs, design strategies, implement activities, and identify improvements.

What makes an application competitive? A strong application will clearly demonstrate: a well-defined community need; meaningful family voice; a clear 2Gen approach; strong community partnerships; activities that directly address the identified need; realistic and measurable outcomes; a reasonable budget; organizational capacity; and a plan for sustainability. The strongest applications will show that the proposed work is community-driven rather than organization-driven.

What is a Focus Area, and why must I select one or two for my grant proposal? Focus Areas are broad areas of community need that help applicants identify the primary issue(s) their proposed project will address. Applicants are asked to select one or two Focus Areas to help DECAL understand the purpose and intended impact of the proposed project, while allowing communities flexibility to develop strategies that reflect their unique local needs. Applicants should use

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community-level data and other relevant information to demonstrate the need and explain how the proposed project will address the selected Focus Area(s).

Do I have to choose one of the identified Focus Areas? Yes. Applicants should select at least one Focus Area that closely aligns with the community need their proposed project will address. The Focus Areas are intended to provide a framework for describing the proposed project and do not limit communities from developing strategies that reflect their unique local needs.

Can I choose more than one Focus Area? Yes. Applicants may select up to two Focus Areas when the areas are interconnected and supported by identified community needs. Applicants should clearly explain how the selected Focus Areas relate to one another and how the proposed strategies will address those needs.

Can rural communities apply? Yes. Rural community solutions are specifically identified as one of the 2Gen Community Grant Focus Areas. Applicants should explain how rural considerations contribute to the identified need and how their proposed strategy responds to those circumstances.

What is the difference between a Planning Grant and an Implementation Grant?

Planning Grants are intended for communities that are in the early stages of developing partnerships, understanding community needs, engaging families, and designing strategies.

Implementation Grants are intended for communities that are ready to launch, expand, or strengthen strategies that address identified needs.

A simple way to think about it:

Planning = We need to understand, design, and prepare.

Implementation = We are ready to put our strategy into action.

Can an organization apply for both a Planning Grant and an Implementation Grant? Yes. Planning Grants and Implementation Grants are separate funding opportunities, and an organization may apply for both. Organizations applying for both grants must demonstrate that they have the capacity to meet the requirements, activities, reporting, and other obligations associated with each grant.

What if we want to use a Planning Grant to better understand or identify a community need?

Planning Grants may be used to further explore and define a community need when an organization has identified an area of concern but needs additional information to understand the issue and determine the most appropriate response. For example, a community may be concerned about access to early learning opportunities for young children but use the planning period to engage families and partners, review local data, and conduct a needs assessment that identifies a specific need for infants and toddlers. The findings from the planning process can then help inform the development of future strategies.

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What should a Planning Grant accomplish by the end of the 12-month period? A Planning Grant should help a community better understand an identified need, engage families and community partners, and develop a clear direction for future action. By the end of the grant period, applicants should be able to demonstrate what they learned through the planning process, how families and partners contributed, and how the findings will inform future strategies or implementation.

What should an Implementation Grant accomplish by the end of the 24-month period?

An Implementation Grant should support the launch, expansion, or strengthening of strategies that address an identified community need and contribute to meaningful progress for children, families, and communities. By the end of the grant period, applicants should demonstrate what was implemented, who benefited, progress toward intended outcomes, how families and partners contributed, and how the work will be sustained beyond the grant period.

When will the next round of Planning Grants be available? The next round of 12-month 2Gen Community Planning Grants is anticipated to be available in fall 2027.

Can two or more organizations apply together as a coalition? Yes. Two or more eligible organizations may apply together as a coalition or partnership. One eligible organization must serve as the fiscal agent and will be responsible for managing the grant funds and meeting DECAL's grant requirements. The application should clearly describe each organization's role, contributions, and level of involvement in the proposed project.

Can an organization apply if it has already received a previous DECAL grant? Yes.

Does my organization need to have all of the partners identified before applying? For Planning Grants, developing and strengthening partnerships may itself be an important part of the proposed work. For Implementation Grants, applicants should demonstrate meaningful partnerships and readiness to implement the proposed strategy.

Will applicants need Letters of Commitment from project partners? Applicants should identify the key partners who will contribute to the proposed project and describe the organization's name, their contribution to the planning process, and the population they serve. Planning Grant applicants should provide up to 2 Letters of Commitment from key partners participating in the planning process. Implementation Grant applicants should provide up to 3 Letters of Commitment from partners whose participation is essential to implementation. Applicants are not required to provide documentation from every partner identified in the application.

Tell me more about The Basics, and why is it included in the grant application?

The Basics is a set of five evidence-informed parenting and caregiving practices that support the healthy development and learning of young children. All grantees will be required to participate in The Basics training, provided by DECAL at no cost, and incorporate The Basics into their grant-

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funded work. Applicants may include reasonable costs for implementing The Basics in their grant budget, such as training community members or using The Basics text messaging services.

Do applicants need to be trained in The Basics? Prior participation in The Basics is not required for application and will not be necessary to receive a 2Gen Community Grant. Applicants should describe their understanding, readiness, existing organizational capacity, and the proposed use of The Basics.

What counts as “evidence” of The Basics Training? Evidence of The Basics participation may include a training completion record or a certificate of completion.

Will all applicants be invited to participate in a virtual interview? No. Applicants whose applications receive the highest scores during the initial review will be invited to participate in a virtual interview as part of the grant selection process. The interview will provide an opportunity for DECAL to learn more about the proposed project, community need, two-generation approach, partnerships, and anticipated outcomes. Applicants invited to interview will receive advance notice of the interview date, time, format, and expectations. An invitation to participate in an interview does not guarantee that an application will be selected for funding.

Will DECAL provide technical assistance? Yes. DECAL will provide technical assistance and support throughout the grant period. Grantees will participate in an orientation and will receive guidance related to project implementation, 2Gen approaches, reporting, and sustainability.

Does receiving a 2Gen Community Grant guarantee future funding from DECAL? No. Receiving a Planning Grant or an Implementation Grant does not guarantee or create an expectation of future funding from DECAL. If DECAL offers future funding opportunities, grant recipients may apply; however, all applications will be reviewed and selected according to the requirements and criteria established for that funding opportunity.

Who should I contact if I have questions about the 2Gen Community Grants funding opportunity? Email questions to communityimpactgrants@decals.ga.gov. DECAL will provide responses to questions that may be helpful to all applicants through the funding opportunity’s FAQ or other shared communications.

Who should I contact if I have questions about the 2Gen Community Grants application in SurveyMonkey Apply? Email questions to research@decals.ga.gov. DECAL will provide responses to questions that may be helpful to all applicants through the funding opportunity’s FAQ or other shared communications.