

CROSS AGENCY CHILD COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Preschool
Development
Grant
Birth through Five

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IN THIS EDITION:



STABLE FUNDS HELPED PROVIDERS OPEN

As part of the PDG B-5's work during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) collaborated with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government (Institute of Government) to gather input from licensed early care and learning providers about their COVID-related needs and experiences applying for Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE) grants. The STABLE grants are funded by the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress earlier this year. The first round of funds were distributed in May 2020 and providers were asked for input via survey in July 2020.

Respondents most frequently selected facility costs (72%), supplies needed to comply with executive orders and CDC guidelines (71%), and class materials/supplies (56%) when asked how they have used or plan to use STABLE funds. At least 90% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that DECAL provided sufficient flexibility in how they could use STABLE funds (94%), or that being approved for STABLE funds helped their program(s) reopen (90%) or remain open (92%). Among respondents representing sites that were open in July, a majority selected additional funds (58%) and increased enrollments (54%) as additional needs for their program(s) to remain open.

For more information about the STABLE Survey Report visit DECAL's website:
http://www.decals.ga.gov/documents/attachments/STABLE_Survey_Report.pdf.

PROVIDERS OPEN WITH HELP OF STABLE FUNDS

DECAL distributed Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE) funds in May 2020. Read more to find out how providers used funds to reopen.

STABLE ROUND 2

DECAL will be offering a second round of payments of Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE) funds to licensed childcare providers in Georgia.

CACDS 2.0

Learn more about planned updates and changes to the Cross Agency Child Data System (CACDS) to make the database more useful for state agencies.

STABLE PAYMENTS: ROUND 2

DECAL recently announced a commitment to send out \$55 million to licensed providers in STABLE Round 2 payments. The application process was open from November 16 through December 2.

All licensed child care providers who were open in October 2020 are eligible. Payments will be based on October enrollment. Providers will receive \$240 for each child who attended child care in-person at least one day during the month. DECAL hopes to pay the Round 2 grants by the end of the calendar year.

For more information on STABLE 2 payments contact stable@decalfga.gov.



CACDS VERSION 2.0


With funding from Georgia's PDG B-5 grant, DECAL is able to begin the process of creating Georgia's Cross Agency Child Data System (CACDS) 2.0. DECAL is working with KSM Consulting to develop a strategic plan for CACDS. KSM is in the process of conducting a review and analysis of all CACDS policies, procedures, and technical logistics.

CACDS first became operational in 2013 and significantly expanded with Georgia's Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant from 2014-2018. The system currently provides enrollment data from many of Georgia's child and family serving programs: Georgia's Pre-K, Head Start and Early Head Start, Babies Can't Wait, Preschool Special Education, the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) subsidy program, and Georgia Home Visiting. The system will soon include foster care participation data from DFCS. Despite this robustness, the DECAL CACDS team has been aware that upgrades to the system are necessary to increase system capacity and use.

KSM Consulting will provide three primary deliverables: a policy brief, a technical brief, and a strategic roadmap. Both the policy and technical briefs will provide recommendations to improve the end user experience and administration of CACDS. The strategic roadmap will provide the CACDS team with recommendations for addressing issues and opportunities that are identified during the engagement. These deliverables will be submitted in November, 2020 and DECAL will begin planning next steps after that. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to **Laura Wagner**, Community Outreach and Partnerships Director at Laura.Wagner@dec.al.ga.gov.

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 <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/BftS/PreschoolDevelopmentGrant.aspx>

 404-656-5957

 pdgfeedback@uga.edu
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UPCOMING EVENTS

01/01/21
HAPPY NEW YEAR

