



Nine Community Partnerships Receive 2021 2Gen Innovation Grants

Funding allows groups to collaborate on piloting and implementing family-focused programs that promote economic security for student-parents and their young children

ATLANTA, Ga., (April 23, 2021) – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has awarded 2021 2Gen Innovation Grants to nine local collaboratives serving student-parents and their children.

The two categories of 2Gen Innovation Grants encourage local adult-serving and child-serving organizations to collaborate on projects to meet the needs of parents and their children simultaneously. The 2Gen Capacity-Building Grants allow community agencies to explore the needs of student-parents in their communities and to discuss ways to meet those needs. The 2Gen Implementation Grants allow community agencies to take action to meet those needs.

The 2021 2Gen Capacity-Building Grantees are: Columbus Technical College, Fayette FACTOR, Inc., Scottdale Early Learning, Thomasville Community Resource Center, and YMCA of Coastal Georgia. Each of these organizations will receive a one-year grant of up to \$10,000 to fund the exploration and planning of two-generation policy change and programming in their communities.

The 2021 2Gen Implementation Grantees are: Black Child Development Institute-Atlanta, Community Action for Improvement, Inc. Head Start, Georgia Northwestern Technical College, and Kennesaw State University. Each of these organizations will receive a one-year grant of up to \$25,000 to fund projects that connect the parents of young children in the early learning system with workforce training and postsecondary education.

“Our agency has demonstrated a strong and steady commitment in supporting student parents by funding 2Gen Innovation Grants for four years now. We are proud of the connections forged at the local level through these grant opportunities and believe that all Georgians benefit from connecting early childhood, workforce, and post-secondary institutions.”

DECAL has awarded 2Gen Grants to community groups annually since 2018. Funding for the 2021 grants is from the Child Care and Development Fund Grant and the \$11.2 million Preschool Development Renewal Grant that Georgia received in January 2020 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education. Visit <http://www.decals.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx> for more information, or email communityimpactgrants@decals.ga.gov.

Details on the 2021 2Gen Innovation Grant awardees follow.



2Gen Capacity-Building Grantees

Columbus Technical College (CTC)

Serving six counties in the west central region of Georgia, CTC proposes that the newly established Chattahoochee Valley 2Gen Project will create a community-wide system that will focus on children receiving a high-quality early childhood education while assisting families participating in workforce development opportunities. A proposed activity will enhance a partnership with Enrichment Services Program (ESP) that includes the development of a pilot to offer on-site certification classes for eligible families with young children enrolled in ESP.

Fayette FACTOR, Inc.

Located in Fayetteville, Georgia, Fayette FACTOR, Inc. will collaborate with both adult-serving and child-serving organizations to identify, prioritize, and connect children with high-quality early learning and their families with resources to be skilled and economically self-sufficient. In partnership with Fayette County School System, Quality Care for Children, and REACH Services, Inc. (Head Start), proposed projects include convening a 2Gen Task Force to develop a community needs assessment based on the Family Friendly Campus Toolkit and Workforce Development Assessment, and hosting several focus groups for parents of young children to address child care, postsecondary, and workforce development needs.

Scottdale Early Learning

Scottdale Early Learning is a Quality Rated early care and education organization serving children ages 6 weeks to 5 years in central DeKalb County. Through a 2Gen partnership with Georgia State University, this funding will allow Scottdale to gain a comprehensive understanding of student parent needs and barriers to college completion. The project will coordinate strategic partnerships that connect GSU student-parents to community-based services and provide low-income families with connections to child care, post-secondary education, and careers that lead to economic self-sufficiency.

Thomasville Community Resource Center (TCRC)

TCRC proposes the Two Generations Thriving Together project to convene a 2Gen team that will complete the Family Friendly Campus Toolkit Self-Assessment and develop a report with recommendations for future action. In partnership with Southern Regional Technical College, resource materials for child care, postsecondary, and workforce development options will be made available to the community at-large.

YMCA of Coastal Georgia

YMCA of Coastal Georgia serves seven counties in southeastern coastal Georgia and more than 77,000 children, individuals, and families each year. In collaboration with Savannah Technical College, this 2Gen project, Supporting Coastal Georgia's Parents, will bridge the gap in services for student-parents and provide resources for academic achievement of children through high-quality early learning programming. One project will focus on piloting a child care program at the YMCA of Coastal Georgia Habersham branch for student-parents enrolled in evening classes at Savannah Technical College.



2Gen Implementation Grantees

Black Child Development Institute-Atlanta (BCDI)

Established in 1981, BCDI envisions a society that ensures a successful future for Georgia's children. 2Gen Innovation Grant funding will enhance the BCDI's Powerful Families Program (PFP) initially developed and currently being implemented through a 2020 2Gen Capacity Building Grant from DECAL. PFP works with partners in Atlanta and Fulton County to advance two-generation policies and programming. One BCDI project will expand PFP through a cohort at Grady Hospital, Connecting the Dots, that will identify expectant mothers during their second trimester who are at risk for poor health and development. PFP also helps families identify and advance their personal and financial goals.

Community Action for Improvement, Inc. Head Start (CAFI)

CAFI provides Head Start and Early Head Start services to Carroll, Coweta, and Heard counties. Through a partnership with University of West Georgia College of Education Early Learning Center, projects will include coaching sessions for parents and guardians of children enrolled at CAFI, and the development of a resource center at the CAFI Carroll County location. The partnership will leverage resources of both organizations to improve the provision of direct resources and programs using a 2Gen approach.

Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC)

Serving nine counties in northwest Georgia, GNTC proposes to provide a wide-range of supports to student parents ensuring that they have the viable resources to complete their college education and enter the workforce successfully. With funding from DECAL's 2019 2Gen Capacity Building and 2020 Implementation Grants, Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia partnered with GNTC to create a family-friendly Resource Center on GNTC's Whitfield County campus. To continue the community 2Gen approach, proposed projects include the expansion of the Resource Center to other GNTC campuses and implementation of the Student Parent Ambassador Program, in partnership with Kennesaw State University.

Kennesaw State University (KSU)

KSU is a member of the University System of Georgia and the second-largest university in the state. With funding from DECAL's 2020 2Gen Implementation Grant, KSU created the Student Parent Ambassador Program (SPA), which will now expand during the 2021-2022 funding cycle. In order to connect parents of children enrolled in child care programs to postsecondary education, KSU has partnered with Cobb Collaborative to extend KSU's Caregiver Bootcamp. The program will provide resources to parents pursuing postsecondary education and will work directly with parents on putting the principles of the "Engage Parents as Experts" and "Partner with Parents" programs into practice. KSU capitalizes on the experience gained and strives to mitigate barriers and open new opportunities for parents who wish to pursue a postsecondary education.

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, 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 enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.al.ga.gov.