



Four Community Groups Receive 2021 Trauma Responsive Care Grants

Funding will allow organizations in Cobb, Jasper, Jones, and Whitfield Counties to build and implement trauma-responsive care practices in their communities and regions

ATLANTA, Ga., (April 23, 2021) – The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has awarded 2021 Trauma-Responsive Care Grants to community-based organizations in Cobb, Jasper, Jones, and Whitfield counties serving families in their regions of the state.

Cobb Collaborative, Dalton/Whitfield County Family Connection, Jasper County Family Connection, and Jones County Family Connection will each be awarded a one-year Trauma-Responsive Care Grant of up to \$10,000 to fund projects that increase community and regional awareness of trauma and create a collective understanding of how early childhood trauma can impact future learning and development of children.

Each of the grantees proposed innovative projects that will help to ensure that families of children from birth to age 5 in their areas have access to services and programs that are trauma-informed. Funding for the grants was made possible by 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.

“These grants build upon the Early Learning Leadership Collaboratives’ work initiated across the state in 2020 using Preschool Development Grant funds,” said Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “These new grants will assist even more communities in building effective networks of leaders who participate in training and action planning, and who are focused on understanding how to best support children and families experiencing trauma.”

To learn more, visit <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx> or email communityimpactgrants@dec.al.ga.gov.

Details on the 2021 Trauma-Responsive Care Grant awardees follow.



Trauma-Responsive Care Grantees

Cobb Collaborative

Cobb Collaborative serves as the local partner for the statewide network known as Georgia Family Connection Partnership (GaFCP). Through the development of a trauma-responsive community, this grant, *Mind Your Mind-Trauma-Responsive to Community Resilience*, will help to create learning environments that build the capacity of staff, families, and community members to support students' needs. Program activities to move this plan forward to trauma-responsive include the design and creation of a local, culturally friendly resource toolkit for parents and caregivers. Plans for dissemination include hosting *Operation Graduation* events across many local neighborhoods.

Dalton/Whitfield County Family Connection

Dalton/Whitfield County Family Connection's *Building a Trauma-Responsive Community for Youngest Children in Northwest Georgia* project plans include expanding the knowledge of trauma-responsive care by offering trauma-related trainings to child care providers and child- and family-serving agencies and institutions. In partnership with Girl Creative, Inc., funding will provide an opportunity to create a community-wide trauma-responsive care public awareness campaign.

Jasper County Family Connection

The Tri-County Birth to Five Circle of Care project proposes to embed evidence-based trauma-responsive care practices across three central east counties in Georgia. Through various projects, funding will enhance the well-being and resilience of families and children ages birth to 5 years by building adult capacities to foster strong, secure relationships supportive of families in Clarke, Jasper, and Putnam counties. Communities will work to increase trauma-responsive capacities across organizations by investing in *Circle of Security Parenting* trainings and reflective practices for families across these multiple counties.

Jones County Family Connection

The Resilient Jones County program has set goals to build a resilient and trauma-responsive community for the birth to age 5 population and their families in central Georgia. Funding for this grant will allow for the development of self-care rooms for teachers of young children and age-appropriate sensory cool-down areas for young children experiencing trauma. Additionally, this grant will offer *Connect Now* trainings to parents and caregivers of children in early care, Head Start, and Georgia's Pre-K.

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.gov.