

# Commitment to Quality Payments Webinar

January 23, 2025



**Georgia Dept  
of Early Care  
and Learning**

BRIGHT FROM THE START

# Overview and Context

*Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships*

# Today's Agenda

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**Overview & Context**

**Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships**

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**Recent CAPS Payment Changes**

**Woody Dover, Enterprise Project Management Director**

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**Commitment to Quality Payments**

**Denise Jenson, Quality Rated Director**

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**Supports for 1-Star CAPS Providers**

**Denise**

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**Q&A**

**Bentley, Woody, Denise**

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# Georgia's CCDF Plan

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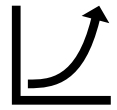
- Every three years, states are required to create a new state plan that details how they will meet CCDF guidelines
- Georgia's new plan went into effect October 1, 2024
- The approval and implementation of Georgia's new CCDF plan coincided with:
  - the end of American Rescue Plan Funding
  - the need to attrition back to 50,000 children in CAPS
  - new rules issued by the Office of Child Care



# Key CCDF Plan Changes

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Beginning September 30, 2024



Increase CAPS Rate to the 60th Percentile



Introduction of QR Commitment to Quality Payments



Introduction of QR Workforce Bonuses



New Supports for CAPS 1-Star Providers



# Recent CAPS Payment Changes

*Woody Dover, Enterprise Project Management Director*

# CAPS Rate Increase

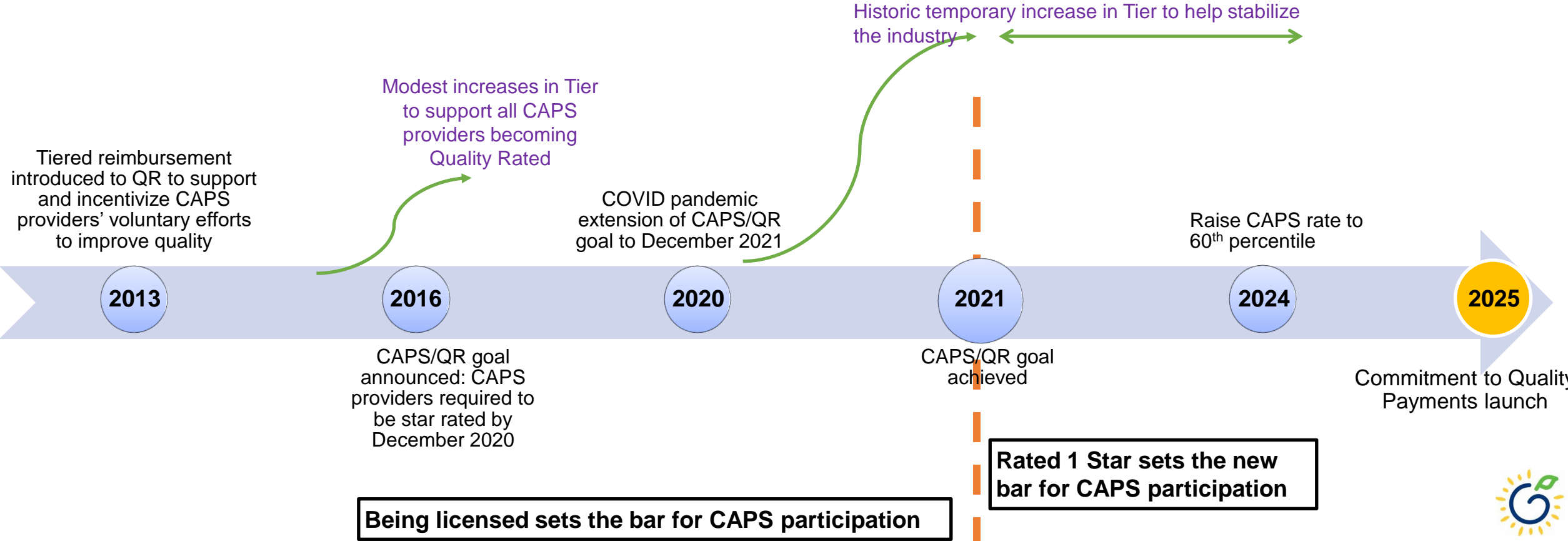
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- DECAL raised the CAPS Rate for full-day care from the 25th percentile to the 60th percentile.
- This represents the largest non-pandemic-related increase in CAPS history.
- The increased rate went into effect with the September 30 service week.

# Ending of Tiered Reimbursement

- Transition from tiered reimbursement to Commitment to Quality Payments represents a new phase in DECAL's commitment to continue raising the bar for Georgia's children and families





# Commitment to Quality Payments

*Denise Jenson, Quality Rated Director*



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# Commitment to Quality (C2Q) Payments

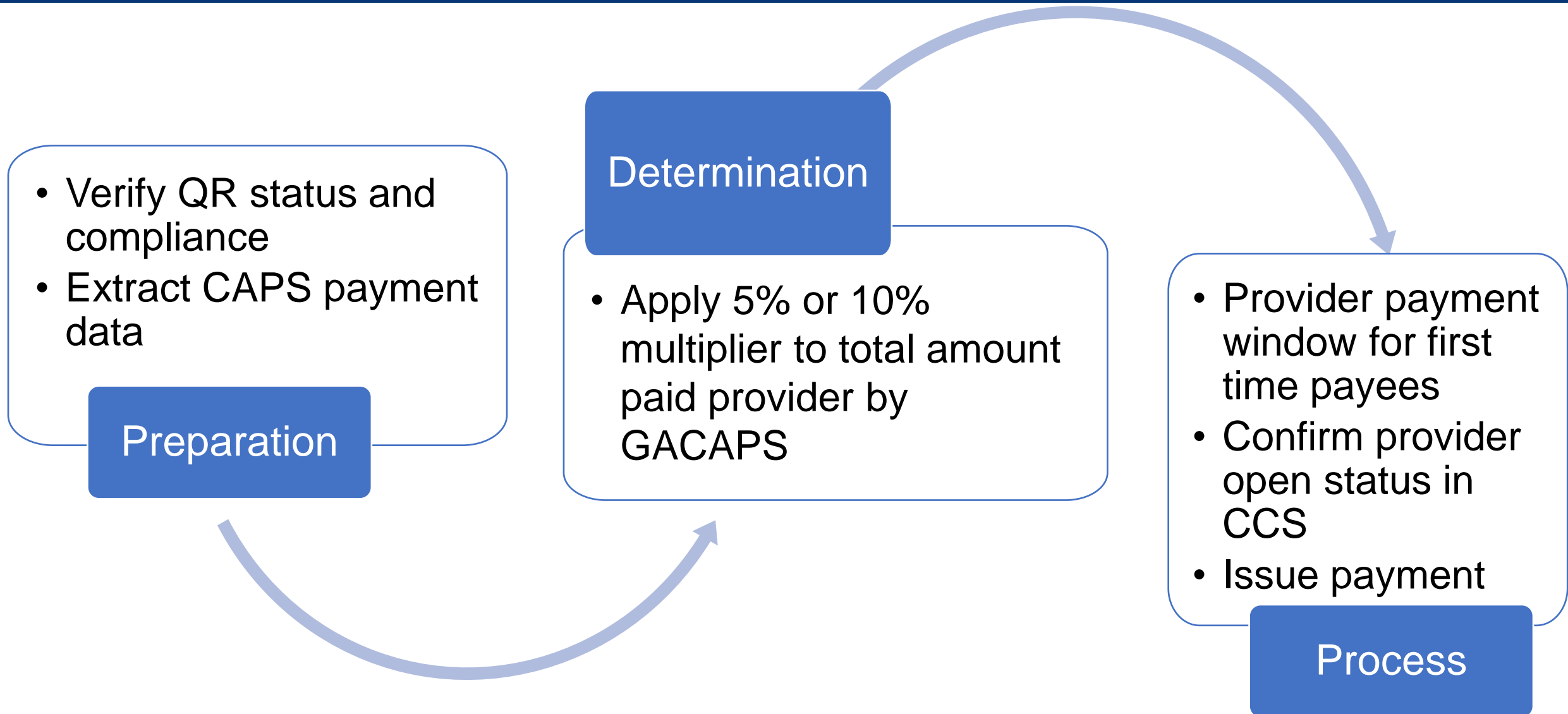
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- C2Q payments are quarterly payments made to 2- and 3-star Quality Rated providers
  - Payments are based on the previous quarter's CAPS billing
  - 2-star providers receive a bonus payment of 5% of the previous quarter's CAPS billing
  - 3-star providers receive a bonus payment of 10% of the previous quarter's CAPS billing
- Example:
  - 3-star provider ABC Child Care had \$10,000 in CAPS billing from October to December 2024
  - In February 2025, ABC Child Care will receive a \$1,000 C2Q payment

# Difference Between Tiered Reimbursement and C2Q Payments

<b>Previous Structure</b> Tiered Reimbursement	<b>New Structure</b> Commitment to Quality
Quality monies included as part of total weekly payment to provider	Quality monies paid as lump sum quarterly payments
Attestation signed in CAPS billing portal	Attestation signed in QR payment portal
Paid to any level of rated program	Paid to highest levels of rated programs
Administered and paid by CAPS	Administered and paid by QR
Emphasized past performance	Emphasizes an ongoing commitment to quality

# How are C2Q Payments Calculated?



# Key C2Q Terms to Understand

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## Eligibility Verification Date

- This is the date each quarter when data is extracted from Child Care Services (licensing), Quality Rated, and CAPS to determine eligibility for payment and to calculate the amount of the payment

## Payment Issuance Date

- This is the date Care Solutions begins processing payments to eligible providers each payment cohort – how soon your payment is made will depend on you

# Key C2Q Terms to Understand

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## One-time Enrollment with Care Solutions

- Enroll with Care Solutions after receiving an invite link, submit documentation:
  - Online direct deposit form (ACH) or indicate check
  - W-9
  - Online statement of affirmation
- Contact Care Solutions if banking information has changed

## Provider Payment Window

- Timeframe after which provider receives enrollment link from Care Solutions to submit banking information to be eligible for initial quarterly payment and access to subsequent C2Q payments
- Failure to complete enrollment link in the window will result in non-payment of C2Q quarterly funds until the next quarter

# C2Q Payments for Quarters 1 & 2

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- 2025 Q1 and Q2 Payments Based on Established Service Weeks
  - These payments are based only on the billing for certain designated CAPS Service Weeks rather than on any payments received during the preceding quarter
  - These quarters will have a **Billing Cut-Off Date**. This is the date that providers have to bill by to ensure that only the eligible service weeks will be included in the calculation of the C2Q payment – no back payment or adjustments can occur if the service weeks are not billed in time
  - Eligible service weeks that are billed after the billing cut-off date will not be included in any future C2Q payment
  - The billing cut-off dates for C2Q payments differ from the 60-day billing window in GACAPS


# Why C2Q Payments for Qtrs 1 & 2 are Based on Service Weeks

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These payments are being done this way due to the influence that ACCESS payments have in the CAPS system until Q3



C2Q cannot include the increased amounts paid to providers for ACCESS, C2Q can only be calculated on payments that do not include ACCESS payments – therefore Q1 and Q2 payments have to be based on service weeks billed starting 9/30/24, after ACCESS ended



All CAPS payments that could include ACCESS amounts have to be billed and paid before we can streamline and simplify the C2Q payment process



# C2Q Payment Schedule: 2025 Qtr 1 & 2

<b>C2Q Payment Quarters</b>	<b>Payments Issued Beginning</b>	<b>CAPS Service Week Used to Calculate C2Q Payment</b>	<b>CAPS Billing Cut-Off</b>	<b>C2Q Payment Eligibility Verification Date</b>
<b>Quarter 1</b>	February 27	9/30/24 – 1/5/25	<b>Feb 3</b>	February 10
<b>Quarter 2</b>	May 29	1/6/25 – 4/6/25	<b>May 5</b>	May 12

**Quarters 3 and 4 will transition from payments based on service weeks billed to CAPS payments received during the previous quarter – more to come as we finalize the details**

# C2Q Payments for Qtr 3 and Beyond

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- For Q3, Quality Rated will transition from paying based on service weeks to paying based on the CAPS payment period
- The **CAPS payment period** is the timeframe during the previous quarter that **all** payments received from CAPS will be used to calculate the C2Q amount
  - This is regardless of which service weeks may have been billed or paid during the quarter
  - Because QR does not process adjustments, or issue back payments for late billing, basing the C2Q payments on CAPS payment periods rather than billed service weeks will benefit providers
  - It will allow for C2Q payments to include any late billing, billing errors, or payment adjustments made by CAPS to eventually be caught up and paid to the provider in future C2Q payment quarters
- As mentioned previously, QR cannot calculate C2Q payments using CAPS payment periods until all service weeks impacted by ACCESS are billed

# C2Q Payment Schedule: 2025 Q3 and Q4

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<b>C2Q Payment Quarters</b>	<b>Payments Issued Beginning</b>	<b>CAPS Payment Period Used to Calculate C2Q Payment</b>	<b>CAPS Billing Cut-Off</b>	<b>C2Q Payment Eligibility Verification Date</b>
<b>Quarter 3</b>	August 1	4/1/25 – 6/30/25		July 14
<b>Quarter 4</b>	November 1	7/1/25 – 9/30/25		October 14

# Key Points to Remember – Action to Take!

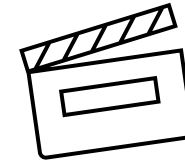


**Billing cut-off date February 3**

**Eligibility Verification date February 10**

**Billing cut-off date May 5**

**Eligibility Verification date May 12**



**Last day to bill GACAPS for service weeks 9/30/24 – 1/5/25 to maximize Quarter 1 C2Q payment**

**Last day to bill GACAPS for service weeks 1/6/25 – 4/6/25 to maximize Quarter 2 C2Q payment**

For 2025 Q1 and Q2, there is no recourse for late billing to be adjusted at a later date for back payment of C2Q funds

# Supports for 1-Star Providers

*Denise Jenson, Quality Rated Director*



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# Why Are 1-Star Providers Not Eligible for a C2Q Payment?

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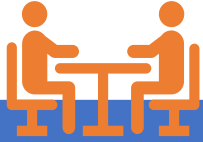


1-star is the new entry point for CAPS participation; these programs will not receive a quality payment – emphasis is on supporting these providers in moving up in star levels



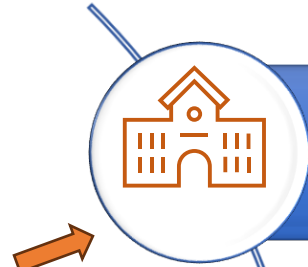
DECAL is committed to supporting 1-star CAPS programs in advancing their level if they choose to engage with QR staff in new ways

# Customizable Planning for 1-Star CAPS Providers

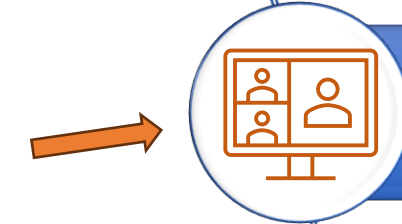


## Regional Meetings

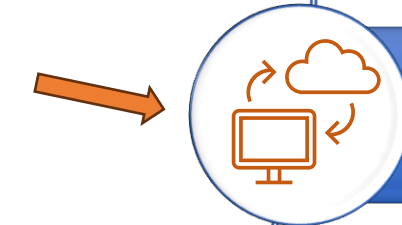
- In person, offered in each DECAL region
- Day and evening sessions (Jan & Feb)
- 1 hr. training: ERS Top 10 Impactful Items
- 1 hr. deep dive on individual CQI report
- Select customizable option for ongoing support



Up to 4 on-site visits by valid and reliable assessor team to focus on provider-selected topic areas



Virtual consultations offered on select ERS and Portfolio topics of need and interest



Online training topic webinars and print resource packets, self-paced and/or small group live



Expiring 2026 providers – additional supports and receive a hold harmless re-rating attempt early

# Coming Soon

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February 21

**Webinar - QRWB**



Posted Next Week

**C2Q FAQs**



Published by 2/27

**C2Q Payments**



# Got Questions?

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Contact  
Us

QR Help Desk: 1-855-800-7747  
[QualityRated@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:QualityRated@dec.al.ga.gov)