

EXPAND Grants

Expanding Parents' Access to Nontraditional Delivery

June 23, 2023



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**

BRIGHT FROM THE START

Agenda

Opening

Reg Griffin

Who is DECAL, Background & Overview of Grants

Bentley Ponder

EXPAND Grants for Licensed Child Care Providers

Bentley Ponder

EXPAND Grants for For-Profit Businesses

Jill Taylor

EXPAND Grants for Government Entities and Nonprofit Organizations

Shayna Funke

Proposal Guidelines

Valerie Perez

Resources & Concluding Thoughts

Bentley Ponder

Q & A



Background & Overview

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

DECAL's Mission

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning enhances children's early education experience to promote their academic, social-emotional, and physical development in partnership with families, communities, the early care and education industry, and stakeholders.



Programs within DECAL

- Georgia's Pre-K
- Licensing and regulation
- Quality Rated, Georgia's Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS), Georgia's subsidy program
- Nutrition services
- Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Inclusion services
- Infant and toddler supports
- Several quality initiatives, professional development programs, and grants



Why EXPAND Grants?

- In 2021, DECAL contracted with the Urban Institute to conduct stakeholder engagement with Georgia families, child care providers, the early care and education workforce, DECAL staff, and other stakeholder groups about supports Georgia's ECE system needed
- Key recommendation that emerged was to identify possibilities that could strengthen supports to families needing care during “nontraditional” hours
- Urban Institute conducted further research on the need for nontraditional hour child care in Georgia, which informed the development of the grants
- Aligns with many goals detailed in DECAL's Strategic Plan, such as: *Expand Two Generation (2Gen) approaches to better support children and families and Enhance the use of technology and data to better support our stakeholders*



What are EXPAND Grants?

- Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act
- Designed to address child care needs during nontraditional hours, such as evenings, overnight, early mornings, weekends and variable shift schedules
- Three types of grants:



1. **EXPAND Grants for Licensed Child Care Providers**

- Award Amount: \$50,000 – \$500,000
- Number of Grantees: 3 – 5



2. **EXPAND Grants for For-Profit Businesses**

- Award Amount: \$100,000 – \$750,000
- Number of Grantees: 3 – 4

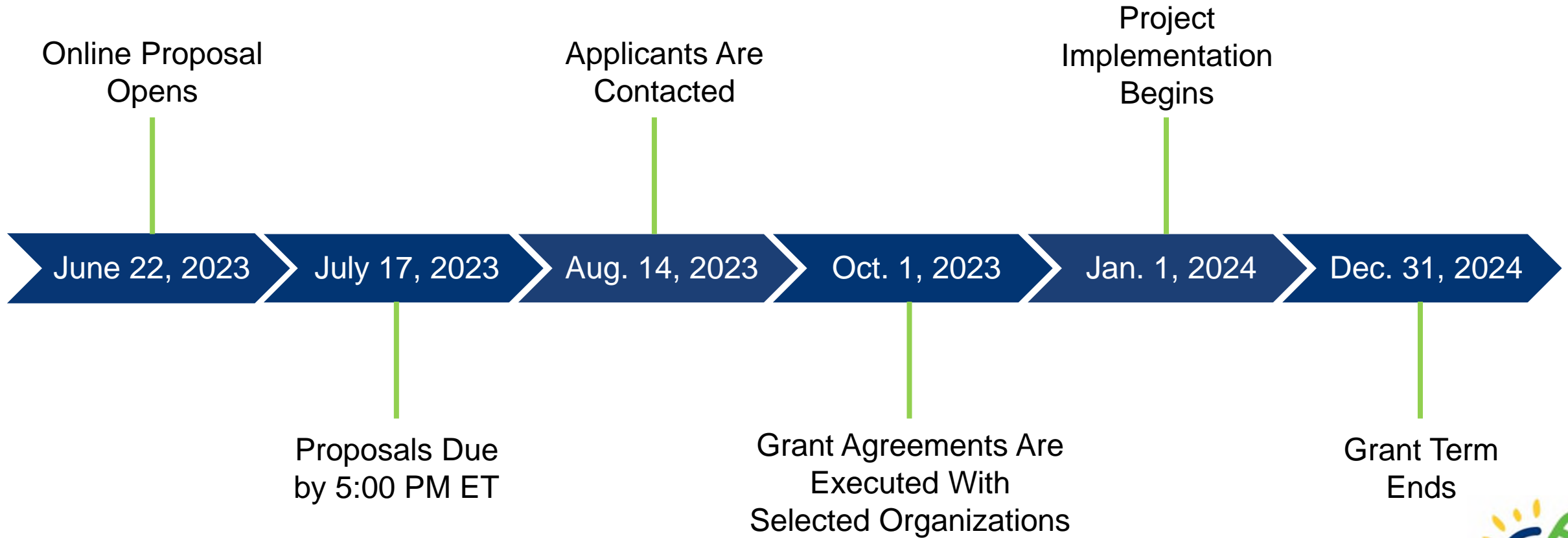


3. **EXPAND Collaborative Grants for Government Entities and Nonprofit Organizations**

- Award Amount: \$100,000 – \$750,000
- Number of Grantees: 3 – 4



Grants Timeline





EXPAND Grants for Licensed Child Care Providers

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Purpose



- The **purpose of this grant** is to support licensed child care providers opening earlier, staying open longer, and/or opening on weekends
- **Potential uses of funds include:**
 - Staff pay and benefits
 - Child transportation costs
 - Necessary health and safety improvements to support extended hours of operation



Details



Eligible
Recipients

**Licensed child
care providers**
in good
standing with
DECAL
programs

Number of
Grantees

Three to five
grantees



Example: Licensed Child Care



- Child care program is located close to a hospital where many employees work 12-hour shifts, such as 7 am to 7 pm
- Program is currently open Monday – Friday 7 am to 5 pm
- Program uses grant funds to extend hours to 6 am to 8 pm, and explore feasibility of weekend operations
- Project might include hiring additional staff, installing more outdoor lighting for dark hours, and conducting a needs assessment around the need for weekend care





EXPAND Grants for For-Profit Businesses

Jill Taylor, Community Partnerships and Projects Manager



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Purpose



- The **purpose of this grant** is to support the exploration and implementation of a project that addresses the need for nontraditional hour child care among businesses' own staff
- **Potential uses of funds include:**
 - Providing stipends to families for child care expenses
 - Creating resources that can help match families to providers that meet their needs
 - Working with DECAL and other local resources to increase licensed child care options in their community



Details

Eligible
Recipients

**For-profit
businesses**

Number of
Grantees

**Three to four
grantees**



Example: Business Grants



- Manufacturing plant in North Georgia has found increased absenteeism with parents of young children. Upon further investigation, it is determined that child care needs are part of the problem.
- The plant uses grant funds to create a network of local Family Child Care Providers who can assist by either offering care during non-traditional hours or serve as a resource for emergency child care. Grant funds could be used to fund resources for the business to create a system to help parents access this network.
- Grants could also be used to fund stipends for families (including offering stipends as a hiring bonus).
- Grants could also be used to explore on-site child care options.





EXPAND Collaborative Grants for Government Entities and Nonprofit Organizations

Shayna Funke, Lead Policy and Business Operations Analyst



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Purpose



- The **purpose of this grant** is to support government entities and nonprofit organizations to form a collaborative of local community partners and develop and implement a project that addresses the need for nontraditional hour child care in the local community
- **Potential uses of funds include:**
 - Providing stipends to families for child care expenses
 - Creating resources that can help match families to providers that meet their needs
 - Working with DECAL and other local resources to increase licensed child care options in their community



Details

Eligible
Recipients



Example: Nonprofit/govt. collaboratives



- A nonprofit foundation convenes a collaborative of partners in the area, including several small businesses with parents working non-traditional hours and local child care providers
- The foundation uses the grant to:
 - Assess the child care needs of the collaborative business partners
 - Work with local child care providers to ensure their capacity to offer care during non-traditional hours
 - Match working families among the collaborative businesses with the child care providers that best meet their needs
 - Help families navigate available resources and create additional resources with the collaborative partners



Proposal Guidelines

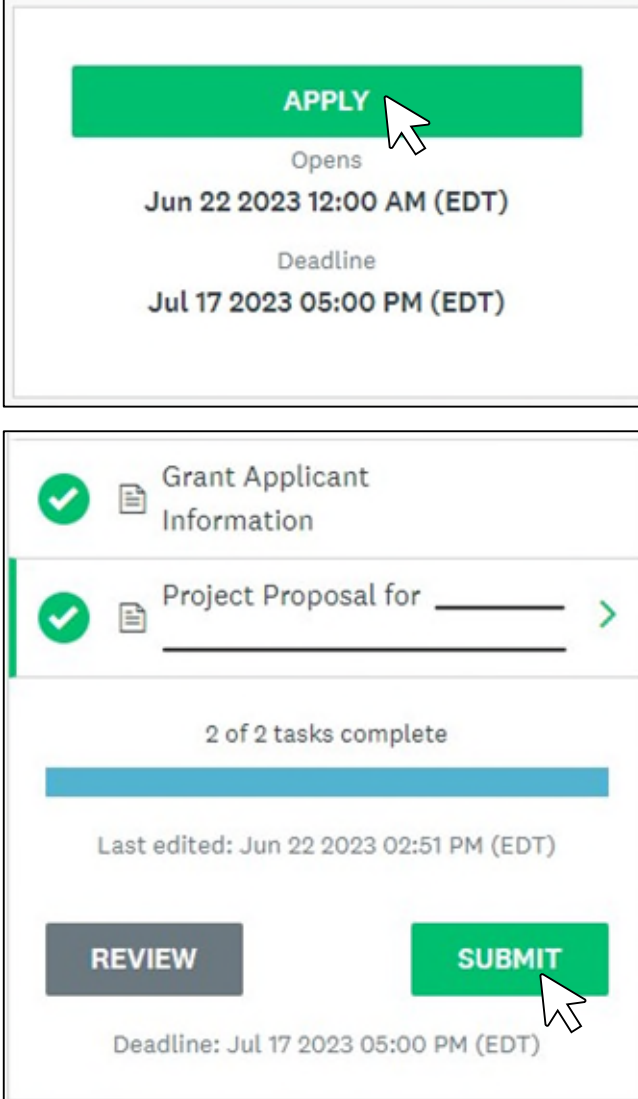
Valerie Perez, Research and Policy Analyst



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

How to Apply

- Proposals must be submitted to DECAL's SurveyMonkey Apply [website](#).
- Once on the link, click **Apply** to begin the proposal.
- If you do not have an account already, you will be prompted to **register** for one.
- In the proposal form, click on **Instructions** for more information about the grant guidelines.
- Once you have completed all tasks in the proposal form, make sure to submit your proposal.
- Proposals must be submitted by **July 17, 2023, 5:00 PM ET**.



The screenshot displays the DECAL SurveyMonkey Apply interface. At the top, a green button labeled "APPLY" is highlighted with a mouse cursor. Below it, the text "Opens Jun 22 2023 12:00 AM (EDT)" and "Deadline Jul 17 2023 05:00 PM (EDT)" are shown. The main section lists two tasks, both marked with green checkmarks: "Grant Applicant Information" and "Project Proposal for _____". A progress bar indicates "2 of 2 tasks complete". Below the progress bar, it says "Last edited: Jun 22 2023 02:51 PM (EDT)". At the bottom, there are two buttons: a grey "REVIEW" button and a green "SUBMIT" button, with a mouse cursor pointing at the "SUBMIT" button. The deadline "Deadline: Jul 17 2023 05:00 PM (EDT)" is displayed at the very bottom.



Proposal Requirements

Content differs by grant type, but the main sections include:

- **Project abstract and organization description**

Who is the applicant organization and what are the goals of the proposed project?

- **Identified need for nontraditional hour care**

What is the local need for nontraditional hour child care that would be addressed by the project?

- **High-level project plan**

How do you propose to address the need?

- **Potential partners** (*only for the Collaborative Grants for Government Entities and Nonprofit Organizations*)

Who will you work with to address the need?



Selection Process

- Proposals will be evaluated by DECAL
- Top proposals will be selected to have a conversation with DECAL team about proposed projects before final selection
- Areas of the state with highest need for child care during nontraditional hours may be considered in selection process



Resources

- All things DECAL: <https://www.decgal.ga.gov/>
 - Webinar recording and FAQ will be posted to DECAL website: <https://www.decgal.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx>
 - How to find licensed child care: www.Qualityrated.org
- Tax credit information for businesses
 - Georgia child care tax credits: <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2022/title-48/chapter-7/article-2/section-48-7-40-6/>
 - Federal child care tax credits: <https://www.uschamber.com/workforce/employer-guide-to-childcare-assistance-and-tax-credits>
- GEEARS Business Toolkit: https://geears.org/wp-content/uploads/Business_Toolkit.pdf
- Email questions to EXPANDGrants@decgal.ga.gov



DECAL Community Coordinators



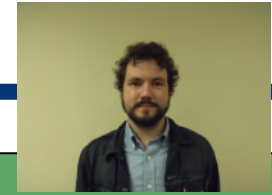
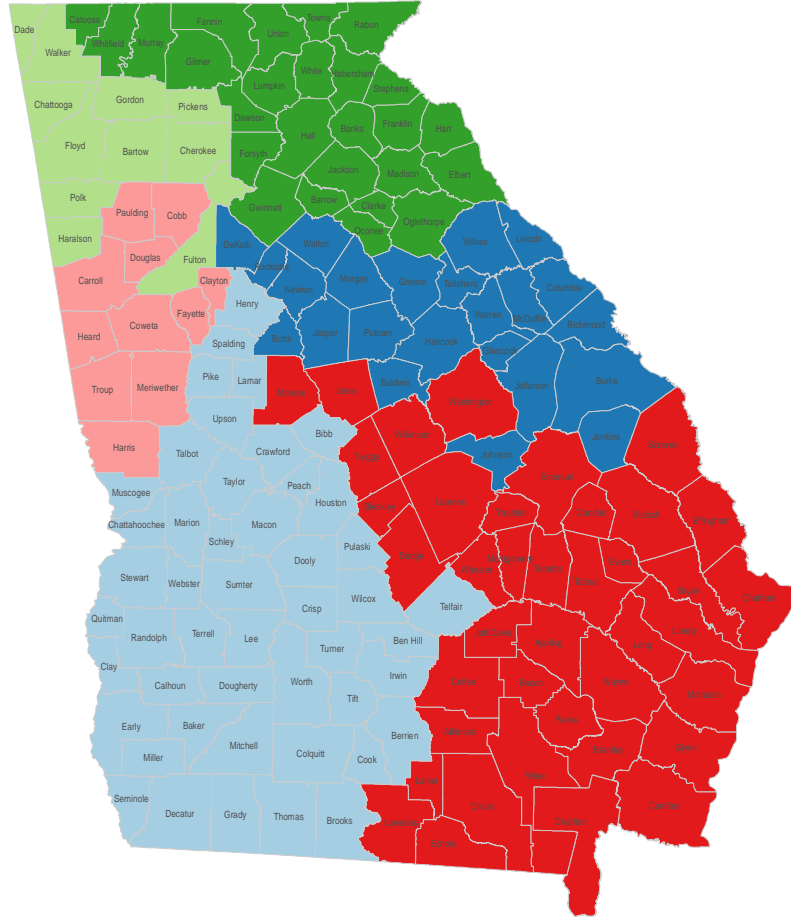
Glenda.Davis-Canteen@dec.al.ga.gov



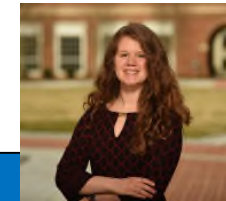
Bridgette.Washington-Collier@dec.al.ga.gov



Edward.Rowell@dec.al.ga.gov



Clayton.Adams@dec.al.ga.gov



Hannah.Smith@dec.al.ga.gov



Tomisher.Campbell@dec.al.ga.gov



Concluding Thoughts

- This is a competitive grant
- There is limited funding
- DECAL will provide support to accepted applicants in developing project plans
- All grantees will be required to consent to evaluation activities
- This is truly a pilot program; we may not have exact answers at this time



Q & A

- Type questions in the Q&A box
- All questions may not be addressed today; an FAQ will be available soon
- Webinar recording and FAQ will be posted here:
<https://www.decal.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx>
- Email additional questions to EXPANDGrants@decal.ga.gov



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START