Friday, February 12, 2021

DECAL Community Impact Grants FAQ

General Questions

1. What are Community Impact Grants?
   a. Community Impact Grants are grant opportunities that are being offered to local Georgia communities to improve services for children ages birth to five and their families. There are three sets of Community Impact Grants: 1) 2Gen Innovation Grants; 2) Trauma-Responsive Care Grants; and 3) Community Transformation Grants.
2. What are the expected total number of grants to be awarded for each grant category?
   a. 2Generation Grants: up to 9 grants—5 capacity building, 4 implementation; Trauma-Responsive Care Grants: up to 9 grants; Community Transformation Grants: up to 6 grants.
3. What are the purposes of these grants?
   a. These grants are intended to provide community-level supports for Georgia's children ages birth to five and their families, increase opportunities for sustainable community collaboration, create new opportunities for communities to innovate at the local level to address critical needs, support additional research and evaluation for how these grants provide measurable and hard-to-measure impacts, and develop "blueprints" for activities that can be expanded or taken to scale across the state.
4. Where can potential applicants find information online about the grants and the applications?
   a. http://www.decal.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx
5. What is the funding source for these grants?
   a. Georgia's Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Renewal Grant is the primary funding source for these grant opportunities. More about Georgia's PDG B-5 Renewal Grant can be found here: http://www.decal.ga.gov/BftS/PreschoolDevelopmentGrant.aspx.

6. Where is the recording of the webinar that you conducted on February 5, 2021 about these grants located?
    a. The webinar recording and PowerPoint can be found here: http://www.decal.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx.
7. Who is eligible to apply for these grants?
    a. Non-profit organizations (501(c)(3)) and government entities (such as state agency, county government, city government agency, public college, public university, or school systems) may apply.
8. Are grantees required to utilize a collaborative as part of the grant requirements?
    a. Yes, each grant requires the applicant to establish a local collaborative for the grant. One purpose of these grants is to support communities in strengthening their community collaboration efforts. Collaborative members could include local child care providers, social service programs, community-based organizations that offer programming for young children and their families, and family representatives.
9. Can grantees utilize an existing collaborative?
    a. Yes. However, a grantee utilizing an existing collaborative should demonstrate how this collaborative will be strengthened as a result of receiving this grant. The grant should not be used to fund existing projects, but rather for new projects that build on current or past work and will strengthen the community collaborative.
10. Can organizations partner to apply for this grant?
    a. Yes, organizations can partner together to apply for these grants. However, the partnership should identify a fiscal agent organization. DECAL will issue funds directly to the grantee's fiscal organization. Keep in mind that a partnership is not the same as a collaborative. Grantees will still be required to create a collaborative as part of this grant.
11. Are child care providers eligible for these grants?
    a. Only child care providers who are registered as a 501(c)(3) or a government entity can apply. However, all grantees are required to utilize a collaborative and these collaboratives should include early learning providers, such as licensed child care programs, in their community.
12. Are grants limited to one county?

a. No, potential grantees can submit applications for projects that encompass multiple counties.

13. Do these grants require fund matching?
    a. Yes, each grant requires a 30% match of funding and/or in-kind services. The 30% match in each grantee's budget will be in addition to the total funding award amount from DECAL.

14. I know that part of the grant is based on Georgia's PDG B-5 Needs Assessment. Where can I find that Needs Assessment?
    a. DECAL is in the process of preparing the Needs Assessment for publication. Information from the Needs Assessment for potential applicants can be found in the Letter of Interest (LOI) Guidance for the Community Transformation Grants: http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CommunityTransformationGrantLOI.pdf.
    Additional information for Georgia's PDG B-5 Grant can be found here: http://www.decal.ga.gov/BftS/PreschoolDevelopmentGrant.aspx.

15. Can we submit our proposal early and get feedback or is the proposal as submitted final?
    a. Proposals that are submitted are considered final. Applicants are encouraged to refer to this FAQ document frequently, because more questions will be added as they are submitted. Interested applicants may also send questions to communityimpactgrants@decal.ga.gov.

2Generation Grant Specific Questions

1. What is the main purpose of this 2Generation grant opportunity?
   a. The main purpose is to encourage communities to pilot or expand community strategies that connect the early learning, postsecondary, and workforce systems at the local level.

2. What is the application timeline for this grant opportunity?
   a. Applications are due March 1, 2021. Grantees will be notified of their status April 1, 2021. The grant will start May 1, 2021 and conclude April 30, 2022.

3. How many grants will be awarded in this grant cycle?

a. DECAL is planning to award 9 grants in this cycle. Five grants will be to build capacity in 2Generation work, and 4 grants will be for implementation of 2Generation work for collaboratives.

4. How much funding can be awarded for each category of the 2Generation grants?

a. Capacity Building Grants are funded up to $10,000. Implementation Grants are funded up to $25,000.

5. What are the main objectives of the Capacity Building Grants?

a. Capacity Building Grants are designed to support communities in: 1) Developing a collaborative team with representation from both adult-serving and child-serving categories; 2) Conducting a comprehensive community needs assessment; and 3) Incorporating family voice into community strategies.

6. What are the main objectives of the Implementation Grants?

a. Implementation grants are designed to support existing collaboratives in implementing a project, policy, or initiative that positively impacts children and parents. This work should include an evaluation plan that incorporates at least one family outcome measure from Ascend's 2Generation Outcomes Bank.

7. What do you mean that grantees should include at least one implementation partner from an adult-serving organization and one implementation partner from a child serving organization?

a. Grantees must utilize a community collaborative in their grant work. It is important that the collaborative includes representation from adult-serving and child-serving organizations. An example of an adult-serving organization would be staff from a local Technical College, University or Workforce Development Board staff. An example of a child-serving organization would be a child care program with a significant number of children receiving CAPS scholarships, or a Head Start or Early Head Start grantee.

8. What are examples of 2Generation resources?

a. The following websites include good examples of 2Generation resources: Ascend at the Aspen Institute, Student Parent Support ACCESS Collaborative, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Wellesley Centers for Women

9. What are examples of supports for student parents?
    a. The following websites include good examples of supports for student parents: [Quality Rated Child Care](), [Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)](), [Nana Grants](), [BOOST Child Care Initiative]().
10. What are some potential ideas for these 2Generation Innovation Grants?
    a. The webinar conducted on February 5, 2021 highlighted some of the projects past grantees have undertaken. The recording of that webinar can be found here:
    http://www.decal.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx.

Trauma-Responsive Care Grant Specific Questions

1. What is the main purpose of the Trauma-Responsive Care Grants?
    a. The main purpose of the Trauma-Response Care Grants is to build community resilience to early childhood trauma.
2. What is the difference between trauma-informed and trauma-responsive? Is this an important distinction for these grants?
    a. Trauma-Informed is the first step to building community awareness of trauma and understanding the impact of trauma on brain development. Trauma-Responsive is using that knowledge to actively inform how you respond to or serve children and families who may have experienced trauma. A Trauma-Responsive approach encompasses the strategies, interventions, organizational policies, etc., that are used to help lessen the negative impact of trauma and integrate responsive practices to support resiliency. Yes, this distinction is important for these grants. We are looking to support communities in strengthening their trauma-responsive capacity.
3. What is the application timeline for this grant opportunity?
    a. Applications are due March 1, 2021. Grantees will be notified of their status April 1, 2021. The grant will start May 1, 2021 and conclude April 30, 2022.
4. How much funding is available in this grant opportunity?
    a. Trauma-Responsive Care Grants will fund grantees up to $10,000.
5. What are the main objectives of the Trauma-Responsive Care Grant?

a. The objectives of the Trauma-Responsive Care Grants are to support communities in 1) building a cross-sector collaborative team of 6–10 community stakeholders; 2) developing and implementing a community-based trauma-responsive community action plan; and 3) creating and disseminating trauma-responsive local resources and materials to families and providers related to the community's trauma-focused strategies.

6. What are good examples trauma-responsive care resources?

   a. The following websites include good examples of trauma-responsive resources: National Child Traumatic Stress Network, Services for Families of Infants and Toddlers Experiencing Trauma, Greater Good: Guide to Well-Being during Coronavirus, Resilient Georgia, Building Community Resilience for Children and Families, and ACEs Connection.

7. What are some potential ideas for trauma-responsive care grants?

   a. The webinar conducted on February 5, 2021 highlighted some of the projects past grantees have undertaken. The recording of that webinar can be found here: http://www.decal.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/Grants.aspx.

Community Transformation Grant Specific Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Community Transformation Grants?

   a. These grants are designed to provide communities with financial and other supports to create and implement an innovative project that addresses one of nine needs identified in Georgia's PDG B-5 Needs Assessment.

2. What is the application timeline for this grant opportunity?

   a. Letters of Interest (LOI) are due March 15, 2021. Communities will be invited to apply for the grant opportunity April 15, 2021. Applications will be due May 14, 2021 and grantees will be notified of their status June 9, 2021. The duration of the grant period will be 18 months: July 1, 2021 through December 1, 2022.

3. How much funding can grantees be awarded through this grant opportunity?

a. Communities may receive up to $75,000 to design and implement their project.

4. How many communities will be selected for the community transformation grants?
    a. DECAL will fund up to 6 community transformation projects in Georgia.

5. What should applicants include in their LOI?
    a. Applicants should include the intended community need they will focus on with data to justify the need; a list of local early childhood education partnerships and evidence of the quality of the relationships; and a high-level project plan demonstrating how the project will address the identified need and including evaluation metrics and potential anticipated insights from the project.

6. What is the PDG B-5 Needs Assessment?
    a. As part of Georgia's initial PDG B-5 Development Grant, the state was required to conduct a comprehensive Needs Assessment related to services and supports provided to the state's birth to five population and their families. As of February 2021, the Needs Assessment has been approved by the grant's federal officers and DECAL is in the process of preparing it for publication. Information needed for potential applicants is provided in the LOI Guidelines here: http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CommunityTransformationGrantLOI.pdf.

7. What are the nine identified needs in the Needs Assessment?
    a. The nine identified needs are as follows: 1) Increasing access to high-quality early programs for infants and toddlers (6 weeks to 36 months); 2) Increasing access to high-quality early programs for dual language learners (6 weeks to Kindergarten entry); 3) Increasing access to high-quality early education programs for children living in rural areas of Georgia; 4) Supporting children with persistent challenging behaviors to reduce suspensions and expulsions from early learning programs; 5) Reducing food insecurity for children birth through five and their families; 6) Strengthening and coordinating early learning services for children in foster care or protective services to ensure they have needed supports and resources; 7) Providing mental health services for the birth

through five population and their parents and caregivers; 8) Providing enhanced services to young children related to the early identification and treatment of developmental delays and disabilities; and 9) Developing a system of care to support children birth through five and their families experiencing homelessness.

8. Potential grantees select one of the nine needs, correct? Can an LOI address more than one need?
   a. Yes, grantees should select one of the nine needs that best meets their community's challenges and can be reasonably addressed within the structure of this opportunity. DECAL recognizes that these needs do not exist in a vacuum and addressing one may also address others. However, grantees should focus their project on one of the above needs.
9. Food insecurity is one of the needs listed above, if a grantee focused their programming on food insecurity will expenditures allow for purchases of food?
   a. No. Food purchases are not eligible for reimbursement from DECAL. Grantees focused on food insecurity are encouraged to consider local partners that may be able to provide these resources as part of a collaborative community approach.

Application Specific Questions

1. Can applicants apply for all three grant opportunities?
   a. Yes, however, DECAL encourages each applicant to think carefully about the genuine needs in the community, data that support the needs, and the capacity of the community to meet the needs demonstrated. It is very likely that DECAL will fund only one grant award to each of the selected grantees across all types of award opportunities.
2. How do applicants know which grant opportunity may be right for their organization/community?
   a. Applicants should be mindful of the data that demonstrate the need in the community and the community's capacity to support the grant work.
3. Why is there a 30% match requirement for each grant?
   a. The funding match will allow applicants to increase the number of organizations involved in the collaborations and increase the likelihood of

program sustainability. The match requirement is also related to the state's required match for the PDG B-5 grant.

4. What counts as a funding match?
   a. Cash and 3rd party in-kind contributions, primarily. In-kind documentation must be provided, and matches cannot include funds from other federal award money.
      i. Example: Think about how much money would be needed to host and provide a training. Count the training space as an in-kind donation. Food cannot be claimed as a reimbursable cost on this grant. So, if snacks were provided at a training for families, the money spent on these snacks could be considered an in-kind match. Other services which serve families that organizations already pay for may also be considered towards in-kind match dollars.

5. How do applicants document a funding match?
   a. This may include a certification of hourly rates for employees, invoices documenting the purchase of supplies or equipment, or other documentation as requested by DECAL.

6. What is the process for receiving funds from DECAL?
   a. DECAL will reimburse for costs incurred by the fiscal agent of the grant awardee on a monthly basis.

7. What are approved and prohibited uses of funding?
   a. DECAL will review each grantee's budget as a part of the contract negotiation process prior to each grant term. Approved and prohibited uses of funds will be explicitly clear before the award period of the grant begins.
      i. Prohibited: food/meals, regular tuition for parents or families, salaries and/or benefits for staff or volunteers, capital building expenses, regular supplies for programs.
      ii. Permissible: pay for contract staff engaged for the scope of the project or payment for a pro rata share of an FTE, consumable supplies, one-time expenditures that can be sustained through partnerships, printing costs, promotional/educational materials, fees for contract services, rent for a meeting or office space, cost of

educational items/book/curriculum supplies, personnel-related expenses engaged for the duration of the project.

8. How will DECAL evaluate the success of grantees?
    a. 2Generation and Community Transformation Grantees will work collaboratively with GEEARS to develop an evaluation plan that allows for lessons learned and successes to be documented for similar efforts in the future.

9. What kinds of technical assistance and resources can grantees expect?
    a. Trauma-Responsive Care Grantees will be supported by the Child Welfare Training Collaborative at Georgia State University. 2Generation Grantees will be supported in their evaluation efforts by GEEARS. Community Transformation Grantees will be supported by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. The Community Outreach and Partnerships Team at DECAL will support each of the grantees through regular communication, technical support, and budgetary guidance.

10. Are there rules about using grant funds for contracting with companies for providing professional development to staff?
    a. If professional development is part of the project plan, a third-party vendor may provide the training.

11. What e-mail should applicants use to submit their LOIs and applications?
    a. communityimpactgrants@decal.ga.gov