

Quality Rated Workforce Bonus Webinar

March 27, 2025



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

Today's Agenda



Welcome, Agenda, and Overview

Bentley Ponder, Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships

Overview cont.

Denise Jenson, Director of Quality Rated Development and Business Operations

Search for Your Month Function

Donna Chen, Senior Program Manager for ECE/DECAL – Care Solutions

Application & Director Verification Demonstration

Donna

Recap

Denise

Q & A

Bentley, Denise, Donna

Introducing Quality Rated Workforce Bonuses



Quality Rated Workforce Bonuses (QRWB): Beginning April 2025, DECAL will begin awarding a new annual workforce award of \$500 for eligible employees of providers who are Quality Rated at the 1-, 2-, or 3-star level

Purpose of Payments: This award recognizes and acknowledges the hard work that program staff do every day to enhance the quality of care and education that children receive

Who Receives the Payments: Available to eligible staff of Quality Rated providers at all star levels, regardless of CAPS participation

QRWB – Program Eligibility



Program Requirements

- 1, 2, or 3-Star Quality Rated program
- CCLC, FCLH, Stand Alone School-Age only program, GAHS and GAEHS, DOD child care program, Tech School or University child care program
- CAPS and non-CAPS participating program

All programs will have an assigned Payment Application Month for their staff to apply

QRWB – Staff Eligibility



Staff Requirements

- Employed for at least 90-days at a qualifying program
- Full time teacher or support staff working at least 30 hours per week
- OR
- School-age staff working at least 15 hours per week
- Work on-site at a qualifying child care facility

All eligible staff will apply during their program's assigned payment application month

Payment Application Month

- Assigned Payment Application Month based on programs very first rating date
- Never before rated programs will be eligible the month following their initial rating, future years application month will revert to the month the initial rating was received
- The first Payment Application Month is April 2025
- Programs whose Payment Application Month would be January, February, or March will have their 2025 payments staggered into April, May and June as follows:

QRWB Payment Application Month 2025									
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Includes 2025 Payment Application Months	January	February	March	July	August	September	October	November	December
	April	May	June						

All eligible staff will apply during their program's assigned payment application month

Spread the Word – Program Posters & Palm Cards

\$500 Annual Quality Rated Workforce Bonus!

Georgia's youngest learners appreciate you and so does Quality Rated!

You are **ELIGIBLE** if...

- ✓ Your program is currently Quality Rated with a 1-, 2-, or 3-Star Rating.
- ✓ You have worked on-site at your program for at least 90 days.
- ✓ You are a full-time teacher or support staff working 30+ hours per week OR School Age Only program staff working 15+ hours per week.

Each program has a unique Payment Application Month.

SCAN NOW for more information and to discover your program's Payment Application Month!

License #: _____

- All programs will receive one poster, more can be requested by emailing QualityRated@dec.al.ga.gov
- Write your license number in the box provided, staff will need to use this to request their application
- Display the poster in a prominent location so that all staff have access to the information

3 Stages of QRWB



3 Stages

1. Preparation
2. Application and Verification
3. Payment

Preparing for Your Application

Denise Jenson
Director of QR Development
and Business Operations



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How to Prepare for your Application Month



Tips for Smooth Sailing



1

Update or create your GaPDS Account – save a copy of the profile page to upload into the application

2

Ensure you have an unexpired Satisfactory Comprehensive Records Check on file with your employer

3

Ensure easy access to your two most recent pay stubs to upload into the application

4

Know your hourly pay, the number of hours you work per week, the months you work per year, and your date of hire

5

Ensure easy access to a current valid ID to upload into your application

6

Obtain a notarized affidavit of lawful U.S. presence if necessary

Doing these things ahead of time will help you be ready to complete your application as soon as your month is available

Do I Need a Notarized Affidavit?



- DECAL must verify employees' identity and legal authorization to work in the U.S. before payments can be issued to individuals
- The E-Verify system is used by DECAL staff to determine eligibility. The following chart will show if you need to upload a notarized affidavit into the QRWB application for E-Verify certification.

My Status	Do I Need to Submit a Notarized Affidavit and Complete the E-Verify Process?	
I am a US citizen, and I previously received a payment from DECAL/Care Solutions for Power, DECAL Scholars, or some other incentive or stipend	NO	
I am a US citizen, and I have never received any payments from DECAL/Care Solutions		YES
I am a non-US citizen eligible to work in the US, and I have received a payment from DECAL/Care Solutions for Power, DECAL Scholars, or some other incentive or stipend within the last 10 months	NO	
I am a non-US citizen eligible to work in the US, and I have never received any payments from DECAL/Care Solutions		YES
I am a non-US citizen eligible to work in the US, and I have received a payment from DECAL/Care Solutions, but it was more than a year ago		YES



Annual Quality Rated Workforce Bonus

Application Demonstration with Care Solutions



*Donna Chen,
Senior Program Manager
for ECE/DECAL*



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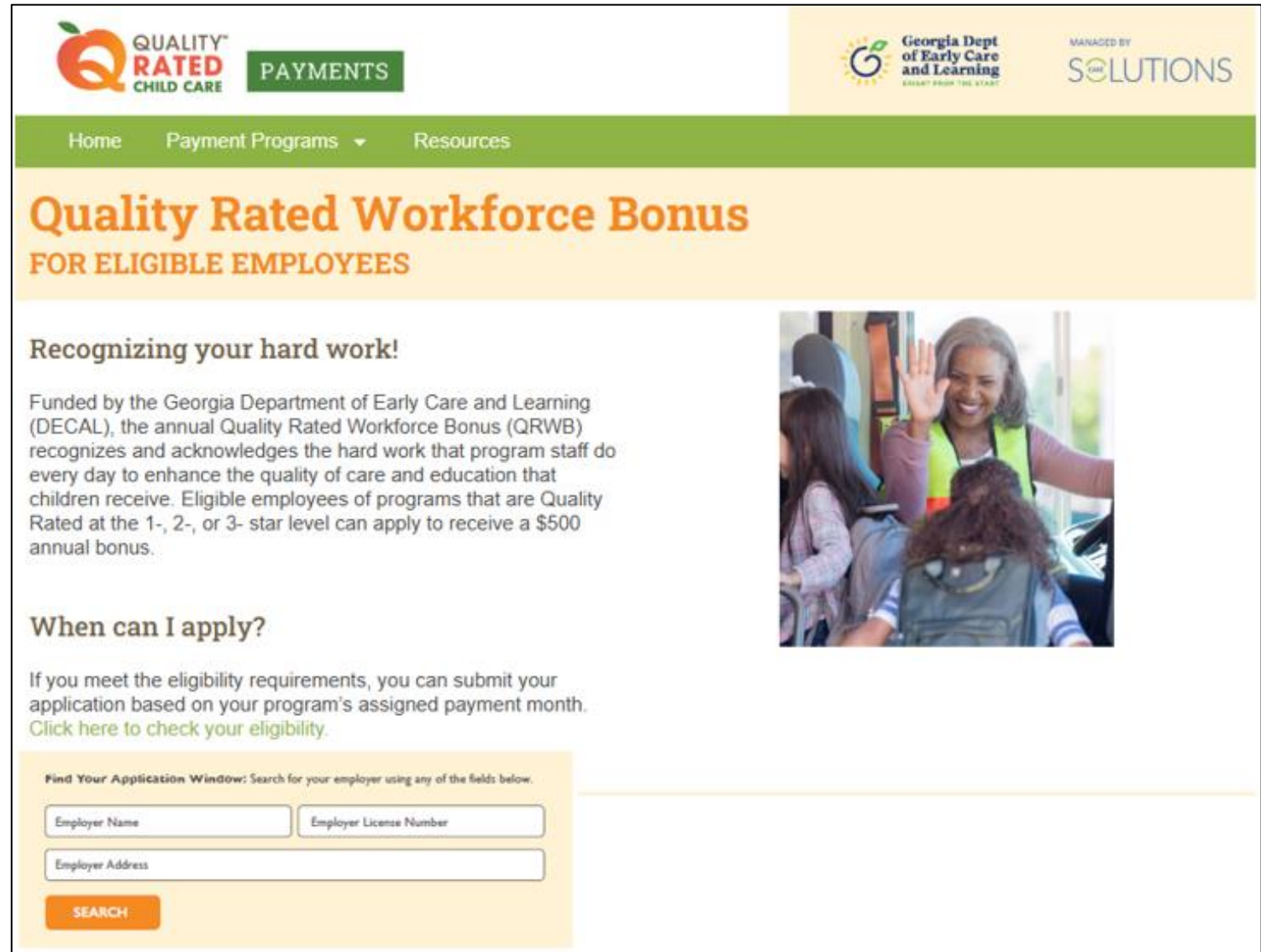
Recap



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Recap – QRWB Application Month Search

- Search to find your program's assigned payment month
- Enter your program's name as shown in KOALA, your program's license number, or your program's address
- Hit SEARCH



The screenshot shows the website for the Quality Rated Workforce Bonus. At the top left is the logo for Quality Rated Child Care Payments. At the top right are the logos for the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and Solutions. Below the logos is a navigation bar with links for Home, Payment Programs, and Resources. The main heading is "Quality Rated Workforce Bonus FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES". Below this is a section titled "Recognizing your hard work!" with text explaining that the bonus is funded by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) and is an annual bonus for eligible employees of programs that are Quality Rated at the 1-, 2-, or 3- star level. To the right of this text is a photograph of a smiling woman in a yellow safety vest interacting with children. Below the text is a section titled "When can I apply?" with text stating that applications can be submitted based on the program's assigned payment month and a link to check eligibility. At the bottom is a search form titled "Find Your Application Window: Search for your employer using any of the fields below." with input fields for Employer Name, Employer License Number, and Employer Address, and a SEARCH button.

Accessing the QRWB Application Portal

When Can I Apply?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you can submit your application based on your employer's rating date. [Click here to check your eligibility.](#)

 Not Yet Open

application window is **March 1–31, 2025.**

Come back to this page during the application window to apply.



If searching outside of your program's payment application month, a Not Yet Open message will appear, the date of the actual payment application month will be shown, staff should return at that time

If searching during your program's payment application month, the **APPLY NOW** button will be active, staff can click this button to be taken to their DECAL Scholars login page

When Can I Apply?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you can submit your application based on your employer's rating date. [Click here to check your eligibility.](#)

 **Time To Apply!**

application window is **March 1–31, 2025.**

APPLY NOW



Processing QRWB Applications

- Identify your application month
- Copy GaPDS profile page
- Last 2 pay checks/stubs
- Date of hire and hourly wage
- Banking information for ACH direct deposit unless check requested
- Signed and notified affidavit for lawful presence along with unexpired verifiable ID (if not completed previously for other payments)

Preparation

Application & Verification

- Log in to your DECAL Scholars profile or create an account if do not already have one
- Answer pre-qualification questions
- Continue to application
- Request employer verification
- Employer receives email to verify employment status
- Application submitted to Care Solutions after employer verifies employment

- Care Solutions processes applications
- Receive email updates
- Opt-in to text messaging to receive status updates to your application

Payment

QR Payments Website - Resources Tab

- Additional resources for QRWB payments can be found on the Resources Tab
 - Includes How to Documents
 - W-9 fillable form
 - Blank Affidavit for Lawful Presence Verification documents
 - Extensive FAQs
 - QRWB policies
 - QRWB Informational Webinars
 - Other resources as they are developed

QUALITY RATED CHILD CARE PAYMENTS | Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning | MANAGED BY SOLUTIONS

Home | Payment Programs | Resources

Resources for Quality Rated Workforce Bonus (QRWB)

COMING SOON
Quality Rated Workforce Bonus

How to Submit: Quality Rated Workforce Bonus
This document will guide you through submitting your information for your annual Quality Rated Workforce Bonus (QRWB), step-by-step with pictures.

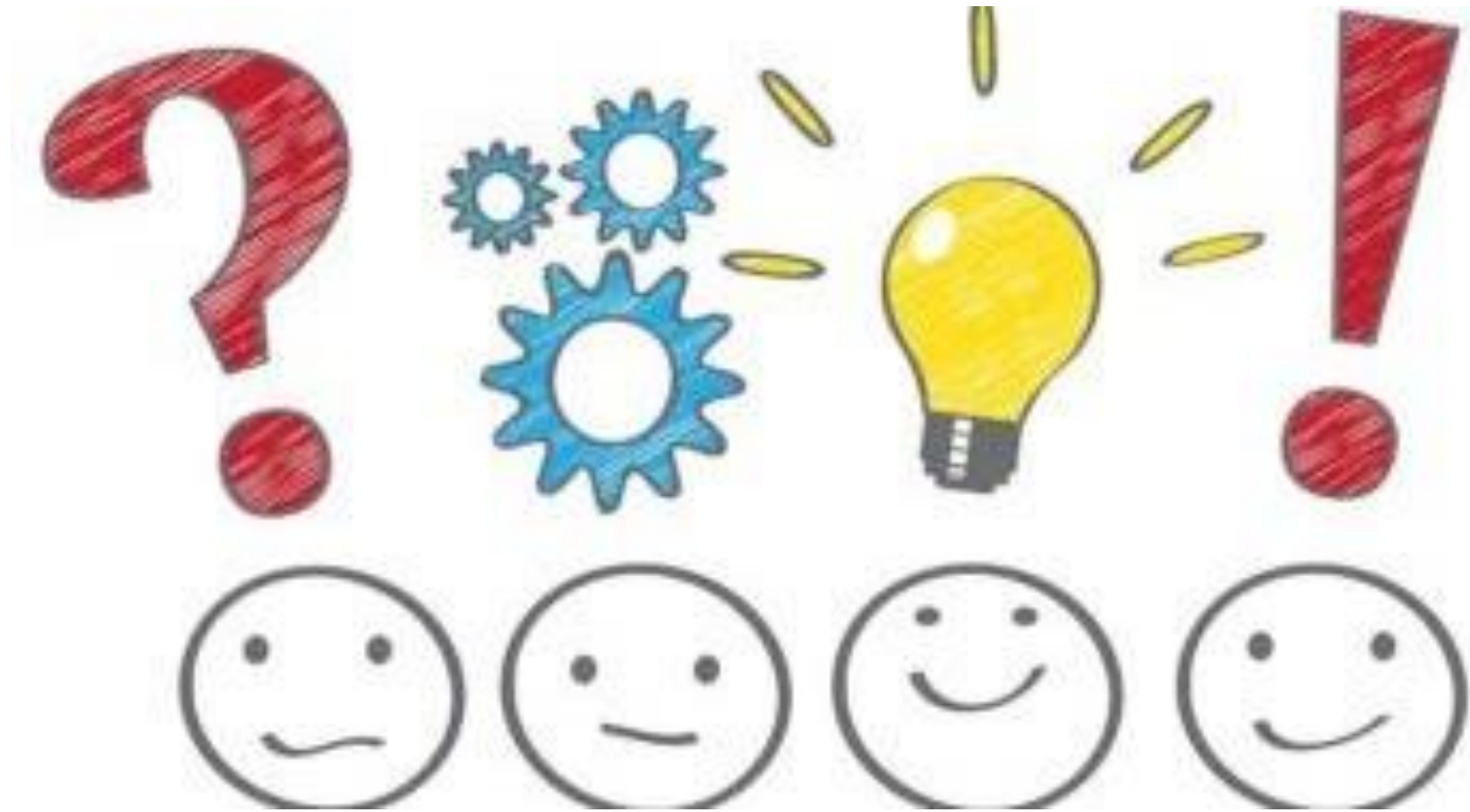
Application FAQs
This document includes a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions about the Quality Rated Workforce Bonus (QRWB) application.

Affidavit for Lawful Presence Verification: Quality Rated Workforce Bonus
This document must be thoroughly completed and signed in the presence of a notary, as part of your Quality Rated Workforce Bonus (QRWB) application.

Create Your Profile
This document guides you through the steps to create your new account and profile.

Change Your Email or Address in Your | **Create Your GaPDS Account**

Got Questions?





Contact
Us

QRWB Website:

<https://decalsqrpayments.com/quality-rated-workforce-bonus/>

Care Solutions: 770-642-6722 ext.613

support@decalsqrpayments.com

QR Provider Help Desk: 1-855-800-7747

QualityRated@decalsqr.ga.gov