



SEEDS for Success Pyramid Model Grant

Family Child Care Learning Homes

Operating Guidelines

2021

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the requirements and regulations for operating a Social Emotional Early Development Strategies for Success Pyramid Model (SEEDS) grant. To ensure program compliance and quality service, all SEEDS grant providers must be familiar with and implement these guidelines. This document is intended to provide clarity and to offer guidance. Bright from the Start makes all funding decisions for the SEEDS grants. Inclusion and Behavior Support Specialists conduct virtual and when possible, in-person visits periodically during the grant period to review compliance and provide support. Providers who do not comply with the SEEDS Guidelines may have the existing grant agreement terminated and will not be eligible for the grants in the future.

1.0 General Program Information

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the SEEDS grants is to promote strong social emotional skills and engagement in young children by providing training, resources and support to FCCLH providers. The goal is to increase the providers' knowledge and understanding of the social and emotional needs of young children and to support them in creating and maintaining a positive, responsive and predictable learning environment for the young children they care for.

1.2 Program Responsibilities

Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) providers receiving a SEEDS Grant will:

- be a licensed center in good standing with DECAL;
- participate in on-going professional development and coaching provided by a DECAL Inclusion and Behavior Support Specialist;
- participate in all evaluation measures, including but not limited to, surveys and interviews;
- maintain or increase their current Quality Rated star rating.

2.0 Professional Development

2.1 Required Professional Development Opportunities

All providers participating in grant activities must attend required professional development opportunities as listed below.

- Social Emotional Early Development Strategies Institutes
 - Frequency: Four sessions over 6 months
 - Location: Virtual
 - Conducted by DECAL staff and invited presenters

- Coaching sessions
 - Frequency: Weekly
 - Location: Virtual or face-to-face, when possible
 - Conducted by an Inclusion and Behavior Support Specialist

2.2 Professional Development System

Providers must be enrolled in the Georgia Professional Development System (PDS). PDS combines education, experience and training and assigns all registrants a Career Level. Supporting documentation must be submitted to confirm educational attainment and training. Supporting documents include official transcripts, training certificates, copies of CDA (Child Development Associate) and technical college credentials. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) reviews transcripts and credentials for the PDS to verify an individual provider’s credentials and degrees. Providers should confirm that they have registered in the PDS, submitted required documentation to the PDS, and that the PDS has verified the credential. Failure to have credentials current and verified in the PDS may affect grant payments.

2.3 Registration for Professional Development Opportunities

Registration for SEEDS Institutes will be done through the PDS. The provider is responsible for being aware of all professional development and training information and providing his/her PDS number to DECAL. For help with professional development needs, SEEDS grant providers should contact their assigned Inclusion and Behavior Support Specialist or email inclusion@decals.ga.gov

2.4 Stipends for Attending Professional Development Sessions

Stipends will be paid for providers participating in professional development. Stipends will be paid, as a lump sum after the final institute, as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Eligible for Stipends</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Total</u>
SEEDS Institutes	FCCLH Providers	\$125 per Institute x 4	\$500

3.0 Funding

Funds available for approved grant activities will be managed by Communities for Children, Inc. Communities for Children, Inc., will process material and technology orders and stipend payments. Communities for Children, Inc., will also verify receipt of materials packages by programs. Grant participants will receive no direct funds.

3.1 Classroom Materials

A social and emotional materials package valued at up to \$1000 will be chosen by the provider from an approved selection of materials. Inclusion and Behavior Support Specialists will work with programs to

conduct a materials inventory and identify appropriate packages to order. Programs must submit packing slips or other evidence to Communities for Children, Inc. to document receipt by the program.

3.2 Professional Learning Stipends and Support

Stipends to support participation at trainings will be paid as follows: \$125 per provider participating in the SEEDS Institutes. Stipends will be paid as a lump-sum upon completion of the entire 4-part institute series with proper verification of attendance and completion.

3.3 Equipment

A technology package valued at up to \$600 will be provided to support participation in virtual coaching sessions and trainings. Providers must submit to Communities for Children, Inc. a packing slip or other evidence that the equipment was received by the program. Providers that have already received a technology package as part of another grant will not be eligible for an additional package.

4.0 Data Collection and Evaluation Activities

All grantees must participate in activities designed to evaluate program effectiveness. Participation in these activities may include completion of surveys, interviews, and the Checklist of Early Childhood Practices.