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**STABLE Round 3 Opens March 22 for
Licensed Georgia Child Care Providers**

Funds Will Mitigate Financial Impact of COVID-19

ATLANTA, Ga., (March 12, 2021) – Beginning March 22, 2021, all licensed Georgia child care providers are encouraged to apply for a third round of Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE) payments from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). Funding for these payments comes from the federal CARES and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act passed by Congress earlier this year.

To date, DECAL has distributed over \$92 million in CARES funding to licensed child care programs in Georgia impacted by COVID-19. In the first round of STABLE payments, DECAL awarded more than \$38.8 million in financial support to 3,789 licensed child care providers. A second round awarded \$54 million to 3,677 providers.

“Licensed child care providers that are open and operating can apply for this special funding beginning March 22, 2021 through April 5, 2021,” said Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “The application period is limited, so act quickly. To access the application, beginning March 22, log on to your DECAL KOALA account at <https://decalkoala.com/>.”

Jacobs said providers should watch their email account for additional details. DECAL will provide more in-depth information about the payments and the application process by email and on our website at www.decal.ga.gov. Questions about STABLE Round 3 can be e-mailed to stable@decal.ga.gov.

About DECAL

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program; licenses child care centers and home-based child care; administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program and federal nutrition programs; and manages Quality Rated, Georgia's community-powered child care rating system.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.decal.ga.gov.