



**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
Commissioner

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## **Georgia Selected For Two-Generation State Policy Network**

*Georgia will Explore Policy Changes to Promote Children’s Learning and Healthy Development While Also Promoting Parental Success as Caregivers and Breadwinners*

**ATLANTA, Ga., (October 13, 2016)** – Georgia is among five states recently selected by the National Governor’s Association (NGA) and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) to participate in the Parents and Children Thriving Together: Two-Generation State Policy Network. With this designation, Georgia will join a network of states working to develop and implement two-generation strategies to achieve statewide systems change across a range of policy areas, including workforce development, human services, education, health, child care and early childhood education. The other states selected for the Parents and Children Thriving Together: Two-Generation State Policy Network are Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey and Oregon.

As part of the policy network, Georgia will participate in technical assistance and receive \$200,000 to research and pilot two-generation strategies to promote the learning and development of children who receive the state’s child care subsidy, while supporting success of their parents and families as both caregivers and breadwinners. Here in Georgia, Governor Nathan Deal has designated Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning as the lead agency for this project. Officials from the Georgia Department of Economic Development –Workforce Division, Technical College System of Georgia, and University System of Georgia will also support the effort.

“A two-generation strategy aligns our programs and policies for both children and their parents with a goal to ultimately and permanently move the family out of poverty,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “Research shows these strategies hold promise, particularly when both generations are receiving services simultaneously.”

“Part of our focus will be connecting access to quality early learning for children with school readiness and workforce readiness supports for parents and families,” added Kristin Bernhard, Deputy Commissioner for System Reform. “Through increased coordination with our state’s education and workforce programs, we believe we can better support families who already benefit from our child care subsidy program. We are very excited about the potential.”

The Parents and Children Thriving Together: Two-Generation State Policy Network is supported by grants from the Annie E. Casey, W.K. Kellogg, and Doris Duke Charitable Foundations.

### **About Bright from the Start**

Bright from the Start: 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, 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.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).