



Quality Rated Subsidy Grants Program Fall 2015 Application Webinar

Bentley D. Ponder, Ph.D.
Director of Research and Policy Analysis

Pam Stevens
Quality Rated Director

Tamisa Sapp
CAPS–ELC Business Operations Specialist



Agenda

- The “Why” and “Context”
- Overview of the QR Subsidy Grants Program
- Grant Application Process
- Program Mechanics: Benefits, Responsibilities, and Eligibility
- Questions

The “Why”



Need for Increasing Access to High Quality

Of Georgia's 809,077 children ages birth thru five:

- 443,482 (54.8%) are from low-income families
- 246,334 (30.4%) are in poverty
- 33,613 (4.2%) are homeless
- 124,056 (15.3%) have a home language other than English
- 17,666 (2.2%) have a diagnosed disability or developmental delay

Benefits of Quality (Child Outcomes)

- High quality early learning experiences provide a strong foundation for children's later academic experiences.
- Well-designed preschool education programs provide:
 - Language and literacy, mathematics, and general knowledge gains
 - Social emotional growth
 - Lower rates of grade repetition and special education and higher educational attainment
- Program effects on disadvantaged children appear to be larger when programs serve children from diverse backgrounds.

The “Context”

- Result of DECAL winning the 2013 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge
- Component of DECAL’s focus of using subsidy to increase ACCESS to HIGH QUALITY environments.
- Excited to be partnering with two- and three-star Quality Rated programs. This will help “move the needle” for children and families across the state.

Overview

- The Quality Rated Subsidy Grant is an opportunity for two- and three-star Quality Rated providers to receive higher reimbursement rates for Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) eligible infants and toddlers.
- The grants will increase access to high quality learning opportunities by
 - Utilizing the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant funds
 - Managing eligibility at the child care program level
 - Offering a business friendly grant model to child care providers

Benefits of Quality Rated Subsidy Grants

- Providers receive:
 - Increased reimbursements (90th percentile of the 2013 Market Rate Survey)

CAPS Payment Zone	QRSG Reimbursement Rate
Zone 1	\$238
Zone 2	\$152
Zone 3	\$121

Grant Application Requirements

- Be current three-star Quality Rated provider
- Be willing to serve ten or more CAPS eligible children
- Have licensed capacity to serve the amount of slots awarded
- No more than 50% of total class enrollment in grant funded slots

Grant Application Details

● Main Points

- Increasing access to high quality care and instruction
- Identifying and recruiting families to maintain slots
- Authenticating and documenting CAPS eligibility requirements
- Recording and reporting attendance

● Additional Points

- Located in an Early Education Empowerment Zone (E³Z)
- Current Georgia's Pre-K Program provider
- Current Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provider

Child Care Provider Responsibilities

- Maintain a two- or three-star Quality Rated status for the duration of the grant agreement
- Attend all training sessions required by DECAL regarding the Quality Rated Subsidy Grants
- Determine CAPS eligibility and maintain case eligibility records

Child Care Provider Responsibilities *(continued)*

- Provide eligibility case files including documents used to determine eligibility to DECAL within 15 days of filling slots
- Submit monthly rosters of children served in grant funded slots by the 15th of each grant month
- Maintain the number of slots in grant agreement

E-mail eligibility packets and monthly rosters to

CAPS.Cares@decals.ga.gov

Zone 1 Counties - \$238 Reimbursement Rate

CAMDEN

CHEROKEE

CLAYTON

COBB

DEKALB

DOUGLAS

FAYETTE

FORSYTH

FULTON

GWINNETT

HALL

HENRY

PAULDING

ROCKDALE

Zone 2 Counties - \$152 Reimbursement Rate

BALDWIN	FLOYD	MERIWETHER	WHITFIELD
BARROW	GLYNN	MORGAN	
BARTOW	GORDON	MURRAY	
BIBB	HARRIS	MUSCOGEE	
BRYAN	HART	NEWTON	
BULLOCH	HOUSTON	OCONEE	
BUTTS	JACKSON	PEACH	
CATOOSA	JONES	PIKE	
CHATHAM	LAMAR	PULASKI	
CLARKE	LOWNDES	PUTNAM	
COLUMBIA	LUMPKIN	RICHMOND	
COWETA	LEE	SPALDING	
DAWSON	LIBERTY	TIFT	
DOUGHERTY	MADISON	TROUP	
EFFINGHAM	MCDUFFIE	WALTON	

Zone 3 Counties - \$121 Reimbursement Rate

APPLING	CLINCH	GLASCOCK	MARION	SUMTER	WASHINGTON
ATKINSON	COFFEE	GRADY	MCINTOSH	TALBOT	WAYNE
BACON	COLQUITT	GREENE	MILLER	TALIFERRO	WEBSTER
BAKER	COOK	HABERSHAM	MITCHELL	TATTNALL	WHEELER
BANKS	CRAWFORD	HANCOCK	MONROE	TAYLOR	WHITE
BEN HILL	CRISP	HARALSON	MONTGOMERY	TELFAIR	WILCOX
BERRIEN	DADE	HEARD	OGLETHORPE	TERRELL	WILKES
BLECKLEY	DECATUR	IRWIN	PICKENS	THOMAS	WILKINSON
BRANTLEY	DODGE	JASPER	PIERCE	TOOMBS	WORTH
BROOKS	DOOLEY	JEFF DAVIS	POLK	TOWNS	
BURKE	EARLY	JEFFERSON	QUITMAN	TREUTLEN	
CALHOUN	ECHOLS	JENKINS	RABUN	TURNER	
CANDLER	ELBERT	JOHNSON	RANDOLPH	TWIGGS	
CARROLL	EMANUEL	LANIER	SCHLEY	UNION	
CHARLTON	EVANS	LAURENS	SCREVEN	UPSON	
CHATTAHOOCHEE	FANNIN	LINCOLN	SEMINOLE	WALKER	
CHATTOOGA	FRANKLIN	LONG	STEPHENS	WARE	
CLAY	GILMER	MACON	STEWART	WARREN	

Benefits of Quality Rated Subsidy Grants

- Parents receive:
 - High quality child care
 - \$0 family fees for the child receiving the grant funded slot
 - Case management handled by child care provider

Parent Responsibilities

- Provide all necessary documents to support CAPS eligibility
- Maintain CAPS eligibility
- Report any changes within 10 calendar days to child care provider

CAPS Eligibility Requirements

Child

- US citizen or legal permanent resident
- Age 0 - 3 years

Parental Authority

- Reside in the State of Georgia
- Have the child in their care
- Participate in state approved activity
- Meet CAPS income guidelines

Questions



Thank you!

Contact Information

**Submit Grant Applications and Additional
Questions to:**

CAPS.Cares@dec.al.ga.gov

Questions & Answers

- 1. Can the slots be spread between 2-4 classrooms?** Yes the grant funded slots may be spread between the classes. We want to be sure that the number of grant funded slots filled do not exceed 50% of the center's capacity.
- 2. What is the minimum educational requirements for teachers?** Teachers must maintain minimum educational requirements for Child Care Licensing.
- 3. Once funds are received by the center, is it spent at the discretion of the center?** Yes. It is DECAL's expectation that the money awarded to child care programs will be used to enhance their abilities to provide high quality care and education services to income eligible working families.

Questions & Answers

4. **If a child leaves the program, how long can the slot remain unfilled?** A vacated grant funded slot must be filled within 30 days.
5. **If a parent is enrolled in college, how many hours will qualify for participation?** Currently, college degree programs (BS, AAS, AA, PhD etc.) are not considered a CAPS state approved activity.
6. **Is Technical School a qualifier?** Yes. Technical diplomas or certifications are considered CAPS state approved activity.
7. **Will money be deposited monthly?** No. Reimbursements are made as frequently as weekly depending on when the provider submits invoices for payment.
8. **Do we “ask” for a number of slots or qualify first?** A center must first submit an application for the Quality Rated Subsidy Grant; if that center meets the criteria set and reviewed by DECAL a number of slots will be awarded based on the capacity of the center.

Questions & Answers

- 9. Is there any difference in the first phase and this phase? If so, what was the difference?** Yes. Phase I was open to any two- or three- Star Quality rated providers who were actively serving 20 or more children already receiving CAPS subsidies. Phase II is open to any two- Star Quality rated providers serving at least 10 children currently receiving CAPS subsidies and three-Star Quality rated providers currently serving or willing to serve at least 10 children eligible for CAPS subsidy.
- 10. How long is the grant?** Grants are awarded for one year from the date of the reward.
- 11. When we complete the application, do we need to already know that the children enrolled are CAPS eligible? No.** Although it would be helpful it is not necessary to know prior to grant award. DECAL will provide training on how to determine CAPS eligibility.
- 12. Is 10 the limit for each grantee?** No. 10 is the minimum number of slots awarded. DECAL will award a number of slots based on the capacity of the center.

Questions & Answers

- 13. Who rates these grants, DECAL or selected individuals?** The grant applications will be scored by a team of reviewers made up of internal and external stakeholders to ensure there is no bias in the selection process.
- 14. Will we get criteria for the parent eligibility?** Yes. Once awarded, providers will receive training on how to determine CAPS eligibility.
- 15. What's the role of the County DFCS Office in this new process?** The Quality Rated Subsidy Grant is an innovative initiative that allows eligibility for CAPS to be handled at the childcare provider level. This process occurs outside of traditional DFCS eligibility determination.
- 16. What are the “eligible state approved activities” that the parent must participate in?** CAPS eligibility requires that each parental authority in the family unit must participate in a state-approved activity for an average of 24 hours per week; **CAPS** state approved activities are: Employment, Technical College, Vocational Training or be a full time student as defined by the school of each parental authority in the home (minor parents and parents aged 20 and under-Middle/High school or GED program).

Questions & Answers

- 17. Do the children receiving CAPS have to all be under age 3 now?** No. However, children placed in a grant funded slot must be age 0 -3
- 18. How many providers were awarded the grant previously and how many providers are being selected this time?** Phase I of the Quality Rated Subsidy Grant awarded grants to 12 providers. The number of finalists for Phase 2 Fall 2015 will depend on the quality of the applications received.
- 19. Is the funding for currently enrolled CAPS students?** No. The Quality Rated Subsidy Grant will provide grant funded slots for any infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) and whose families meet all CAPS eligibility criteria.
- 20. The providers that were awarded the grant during the 1st round do they have to reapply for the second round?** No. The providers who were awarded the grant during Phase I will have a separate renewal process.

Questions & Answers

- 21. How many grants are going to be awarded?** The number of grants to be awarded will depend on the quality of the applications that are received.
- 22. I'm in Zone 2 so it's \$152 per child?** Yes. Reimbursements rates are based in CAPS payment zones. Reimbursement rates are per child per week. Zone 1: \$238, Zone 2: \$152, Zone 3: \$121.
- 23. Is there a difference between Grant Awardee and Grant Finalist?** Yes. Grant finalists become Grant awardees once they complete the grant agreement and training.
- 24. Is this something new for parents? Yes. Or could the parents who are receiving CAPS now apply for this also?** Yes. Any family with infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) may be considered for a grant funded slot.

Questions & Answers

- 25. Is the application available now?** Yes. The Quality Rated Subsidy Grant Fall 2015 application is available on the DECAL web page www.decal.ga.gov.
- 26. Is this a reimbursement grant?** Yes. Providers will be reimbursed as frequently as weekly for care provided.
- 27. Will the new four year old have priority to the standard CAPS voucher, in the second month after their birthday?** Yes. Children who are currently receiving CAPS and then switch to a grant funded slot will have priority to continue their CAPS funded care after their fourth birthday.
- 28. How do we know what zone we are in?** Your zone depends on what county your program is located. A list of the counties for each zone are available in the webinar and posted on the DECAL website.

Questions & Answers

- 29. If our rate is \$180 will the grant pay your going rate or is there a set amount this grant will pay?** The grant will pay the set reimbursement rate according to your CAPS payment zone. **How do we as providers screen the families for eligibility for CAPS? Will the training help us with this process?** Once grants have been awarded, the childcare programs will receive training on how to determine CAPS eligibility.
- 30. Will we submit electronically (as we do with CAPS/MAXIMUS) for reimbursement weekly?** Yes. Providers will utilize the same billing system GACAPS/MAXIMUS for reimbursements.
- 31. How long must the records be stored?** Records collected for the grant must be retained for 7 years.

Questions & Answers

- 32. Age limit applies to age at enrollment or age during the entire period of enrollment. That is, does a family lose this support on the child's 4th birthday?** The child will receive care under the grant funded slot thru the end of the month in which they turn 4 years old.
- 33. How many childcare centers are participating in the webinar today? How many applications are you expecting?** On our webinars today, there were 72 participants. We are expecting and hoping that all eligible two- and three-Star Rated providers submit an application.