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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DECAL Announces Special Grants for Two- and Three- Star Quality Rated
Child Care Programs**

*Subsidy Grants Will Encourage High Quality Child Care Programs to Serve Children Eligible
for child care subsidies*

ATLANTA, Ga., (September 21, 2015) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) announced today that applications for special Quality Rated Subsidy Grants for two- and three- star Quality Rated child care programs are now available.

With funding from the federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant DECAL will accept applications from high quality child care programs willing to provide quality early care and education services to income eligible working families. Monies awarded to child care programs will fund slots for children receiving or eligible to receive subsidized child care through the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program. Through this special grant opportunity, child care programs will be able to determine a child’s eligibility for this grant using eligibility criteria set and reviewed by DECAL.

Two- and three -star Quality Rated programs currently serving ten or more families receiving or eligible to receive subsidies from the CAPS program may apply.

Three -star Quality Rated programs who are not currently serving families receiving CAPS subsidies, but who are willing to serve at least ten CAPS eligible infants and/or toddlers may also apply. DECAL will reimburse providers awarded the grant at the 90th percentile of the 2013 Market Rate Survey for their area, and eligible families will not be required to pay weekly family fees.

“We are confident that these special grants will provide an incentive for our two- and three- star Quality Rated child care community to apply for this innovative opportunity to serve children with high needs,” said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. “This important initiative will help Georgia achieve its goal of ensuring access to high quality child care to Georgia’s most vulnerable children and families.”

Applications for this special grant opportunity are posted on:

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/QualityInitiatives/CAPS.aspx>.

Applications are due on October 16, 2015 by 5:00PM.

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.decal.ga.gov.