



Early Education Empowerment Zone (E³Z) Tiered Family Co-Pay

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June 4, 2015



Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

www.dec.al.ga.gov

Agenda

- E³Z Background
- Tiered Family Co-pay Overview
- Eligibility Criteria
- Benefits of Tiered Family Co-pay
- Tiered Family Co-pay Rates
- Become Quality Rated!
- Q&A

E³Z Background Information

- This grant provides funding for states to create an early learning agenda that builds and strengthens existing early learning and development systems.
- The grant required states to detail how they will:
 - Improve program quality and outcomes for young children.
 - Increase the number of children with high needs attending high quality early learning and development programs.
 - Help close the achievement gap between children with high needs and their peers by supporting efforts to increase kindergarten readiness.

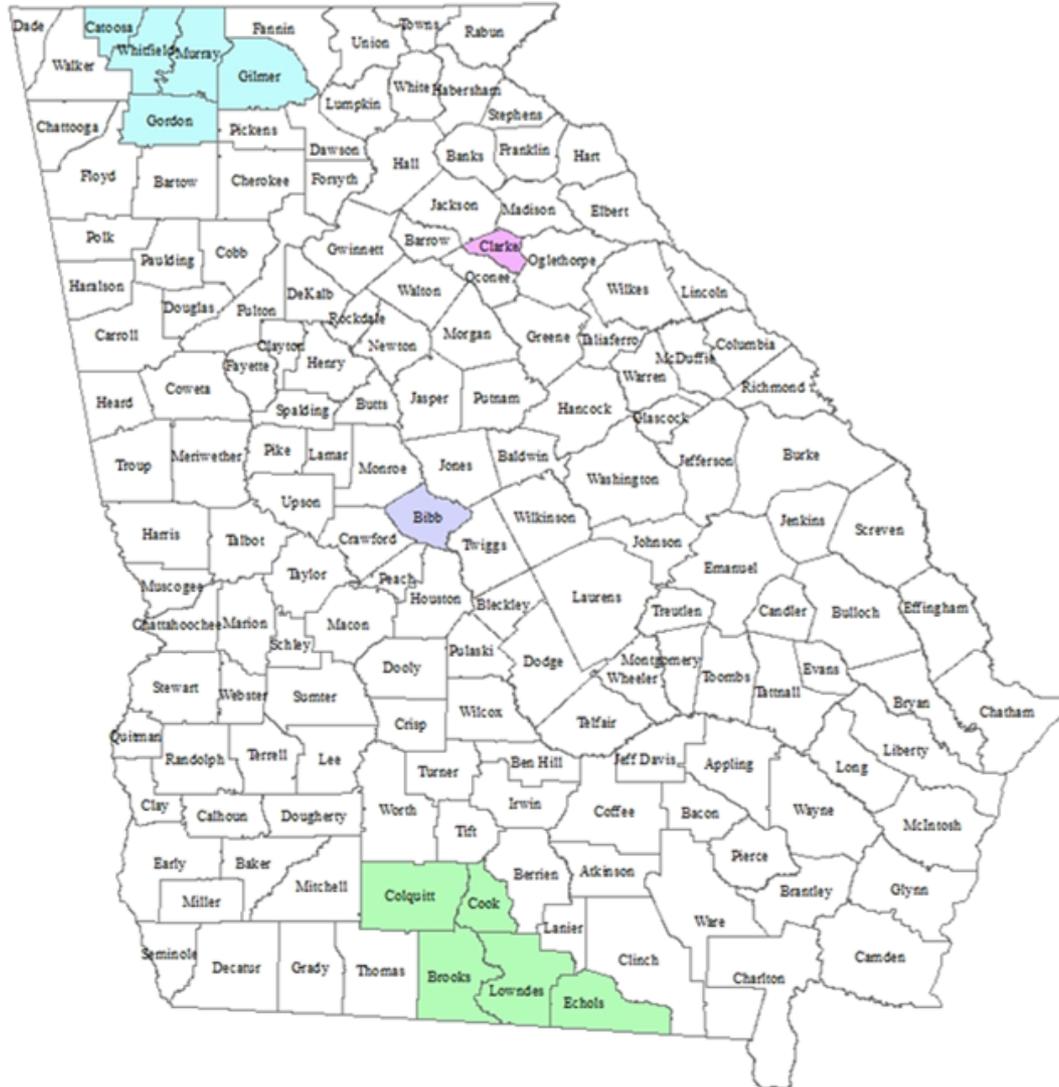
Successful State Systems – Early Education Empowerment Zones (E³Zs)

- Purpose: Align supports, activities, and services in geographical areas with large numbers or high percentages of children with high needs and improve infrastructure for high quality early learning programs
- Activities:
 - Offer increased incentives for offering and selecting high-quality early learning environments
 - Work with community leaders to improve early childhood infrastructure and increase economic opportunities
 - Utilize Georgia’s existing tax incentives based on job creation to encourage high quality providers to open in E³Zs

Early Education Empowerment Zones (E³Zs)

- Selected based on data that indicate areas that have:
 - Populations of children with high needs who are underserved
 - Education, poverty levels, capacity, quality, family characteristics
 - Community capacity and willingness to devote resources toward delivering services to help reduce the achievement gap

Early Education Empowerment Zones (E³Zs)



What will the E³Zs receive?

- Home Visiting services through Great Start Georgia
- Economic development incentives to attract high quality early care and education providers
- Family engagement grants
- Specialized professional development for early care and education professionals
- Comprehensive assessment and referral services
- Quality improvement grants for early care and education providers
- Subsidy grants for high needs children
- Enhanced child care subsidy payments

Tiered Family Co-Pay Overview

- The Tiered Family Co-Pay reduces expenses to help parents and families whose children receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) to afford higher quality child care in Early Education Empowerment Zones (E³Z).

Eligibility Criteria

- Quality Rated provider
- Serving CAPS eligible families
- Located in the E³Z counties

Bibb

Brooks

Catoosa

Clarke

Colquitt

Cook

Echols

Gilmer

Gordon

Lowndes

Murray

Whitfield

Benefits of Tiered Family Co-Pay

- Lower family fees for choosing a Quality Rated provider
- Easier collection of weekly payments from families
- CAPS will automatically reflect the change in co-pay
- Difference between the regular co-pay and the “tiered” co-pay will be paid by DECAL

Tiered Family Co-Pay Rates

Family Co-Pay Rate Chart (effective July 1, 2015)

Quality Rated Level	 1-Star Provider	 2-Star Provider	 3-Star Provider
Family Co-Pay	\$ 15	\$ 10	\$5

Sample Certificate

I. Child Care information		Case: 12345	Certificate: 3210000			
Child's name	KHALIA ENGLISH	DOB: 10/09/2014	Care Begin: 07/06/2015			
Type of Care	Daycare		Care End: 07/08/2016			
# of days per week	5					
II. Family information		*** Recertification Date ***				
Child's Parent/Guardian	LOIS ENGLISH	07/08/2016				
Address	320 ROBINSON ROAD WASHINGTON, GA 30673					
Telephone	(home) (478) 555-1212 (work) (478) 922-0000					
III. Provider #	12345	Type: Center				
Name	ABC DAYCARE	UAS: 544				
Address	123 MAIN STREET WASHINGTON, GA 30673	Relation to Child: OU				
Phone	(478) 922-9999	In Child's Home: No				
		Registration Fee: 50				
IV. CAPS payment and assigned Family Fees						
	Actual Provider Weekly charge	CAPS Weekly Rate	FAMILY Fee	CAPS Weekly Amt to Prov	Parent Weekly Responsibility	Authorized Registration Fee
Daycare	150	139	5	134	16	0

Quality Rated Process

- Opportunity for early care and education programs to demonstrate achievement of program quality beyond licensing's minimal requirements



www.qualityrated.org

Quality Rated Helpdesk

(855) 800-7747

Questions



Thank you!

Questions & Answers

Q: How long will the reduced family copays be available?

A: This funding opportunity under the ELC grant will begin on July 1st, 2015 and will be available until December 31, 2017. This opportunity is being piloted now but will be evaluated after 2017 for possible continued funding.

Q: What about the families that have applied for CAPS but were turned down due to funding restrictions? Can they re-apply for CAPS?

A: The Tiered Family Co-pay initiative does not overstep current CAPS Policy. CAPS funding restrictions are still in effect. Eligible families currently receiving or recertifying for CAPS who live within and receive care at a Quality Rated provider in an E³Z county will be eligible for the Tiered Family Co-pay. New applicants should continue to check the Georgia COMPASS website (COMPASS.ga.gov) to learn when the funding restrictions have been lifted in their county.

Questions & Answers

Q: Will new certificates be provided for our families to reflect the change in family fee for the Tiered Family Co-pay?

A: Yes. Updated certificates will be created for families and providers who meet the eligibility requirements for the Tiered Family Co-pay.

Q: Are parents responsible for gaining a new certificate with the reduced family fee?

A: No. Parents are not responsible for gaining a new certificate. Parents and child care providers with active CAPS certificates as of July 1, 2015 who are eligible for a tiered family copay will receive an updated certificate.

Q: How do I find a provider's Quality Rating?

A: To find the star rating for a Quality Rated program, visit www.QualityRated.org. This information is also listed on DECAL's Provider Search, www.decals.ga.gov.

Questions & Answers

Q: If you are just starting the Quality Rated process and not yet rated, when will this benefit take affect?

A: The Tiered Family Co-Pay incentive is solely for providers who have completed the Quality Rated process and have received a 1, 2 or 3 Star Quality Rated level. For providers starting the process, once you receive your Quality Rating, you will become eligible for the Tiered Family Co-pay.

Q: Will there be any initiatives for start-up to increase the supply of care in E³Zs?

A: Yes. The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is currently working with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to design an incentive package application for a limited number of child care programs to open or expand within the twelve counties which are located in the four Early Education Empowerment Zones. We intend to fund approximately ten programs total over the course of the next two and a half years, based on successful applications. We will announce the application process as soon as it is available.

Questions & Answers

Q: Can you tell us more about specialized professional development and QI grants for providers?

A: We are working with local childcare professionals and other leaders within our E³Zs to explore meaningful, and appropriate, training opportunities within newly established peer learning groups. For more information on QI grants for providers, please call our Quality Rated Help Desk: [1-855-800-7747](tel:1-855-800-7747).

Contact Information

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