

Quality Rated Subsidy Grants

Overview

The Quality Rated Subsidy Grant is a leading-edge initiative provided by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) through the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, a time limited, federal grant administered by the U.S. Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services.

The purpose of the Quality Rated Subsidy Grant is to provide income eligible working families of infants and/or toddlers with increased access to high quality learning opportunities for their children. This increased access will be made possible by child care providers who have received a two- or three- star rating through DECAL's Quality Rated program and actively serving 10 or more infant and/or toddlers eligible for or receiving funding from the state's child care subsidy program, Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). CAPS is administered by DECAL.

DECAL will reimburse providers awarded the grant at the 90th percentile of the 2013 Market Rate survey for their area for serving children from families who receive CAPS. 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.

In order to be considered for the Quality Rated subsidy grant a child care program must submit an application. Each application will be scored by an independent 3- member panel using a standard scale. The applications will be scored based on the understanding and content of the answers to the questions and the overall quality of the applications.

As a condition of the Quality Rated Subsidy Grant, the child care programs that are selected as finalist/recipients of the grant agree to:

- a. maintain their two- or three- star rating through DECAL's Quality Rated program;
- b. maintain compliance with all DECAL programs
- c. accurately determine CAPS eligibility for families and children served
- d. attend all trainings required by DECAL
- e. maintain at least the minimum child enrollment for the number of grant funded slots awarded
- f. maintain no more than 50% total classroom enrollment in grant funded slots.

The grant agreement between DECAL and the childcare program outlines the number and percentage of eligible infants and toddlers who will be served in the childcare program with the Quality Rated Subsidy Grant funding. The number of slots awarded will be calculated based on the capacity each program has to serve infant/toddlers determined to be eligible for subsidies based on CAPS policies at the time of the program's grant application.

DECAL will support the eligibility determination process to ensure that children and their families who are selected to enroll meet the CAPS eligibility requirements by providing in-depth training and technical support to child care programs that receive the Quality Rated Subsidy

grant. The eligibility criteria are based on the federal regulations which govern the use of the CAPS subsidy funding.

Eligibility to participate in CAPS-funded slots for children is based on the child's U.S. citizenship or legal status, family's Georgia residency, family unit's income, and the need for care. The procedures below outline the policies and the process for determining and verifying eligibility for CAPS subsidies.

The **family unit** is defined as parent(s), guardian(s) or responsible persons and any minor children for whom they are responsible for and who live in the same household.