



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State commissions Child Care Economic Impact Study

Study Will Help Quantify Impact of the Early Childhood Care and Education Industry on Georgia's Economy

ATLANTA, Ga., (November 6, 2014) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has commissioned the University of Georgia and Georgia State University to study the impact of the child care industry on the economy of Georgia. The most recent such study, conducted in 2007, showed that child care programs in Georgia created over \$4.1 billion in revenues annually, while creating over 61,000 jobs.

“It has been seven years since our last economic impact study, and we know conditions have changed since then,” said Interim Commissioner Amy Jacobs. “The previous study revealed the significant impact the child care industry has on Georgia’s economy. Now it is time to gather current data and to gauge the impact of the Great Recession on the industry. As Governor Deal continues to emphasize job creation in our state, it is important to understand the economic impact of the child care industry in Georgia and to recognize that it is a viable economic engine across the state.”

Dr. Bentley Ponder, DECAL’s Director of Research and Strategic Planning, said that all of the approximately 5,500 child care programs in Georgia will be asked to complete a comprehensive survey in the fall of 2014. A final report will be released in June 2015.

“We assure child care providers that the survey will be completely confidential and is for research purposes only,” said Dr. Ponder. “DECAL will never have access to individual responses. Findings from the study, including workforce data, will be shared with other state agencies, legislators, and other policy makers to inform decision making and help with planning.”

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Researchers from the University of Georgia will design, conduct, and compile the results from the survey. Researchers from Georgia State University will analyze and interpret the results. The universities will work collaboratively to draft the final report.

Interim Commissioner Jacobs encourages all child care programs to complete the survey. “We must have as much complete data as possible to accurately understand and communicate the critical importance of the child care industry, not just on families and providers, but on the overall health of Georgia’s economy. The more providers who complete the survey, the better data we will have.”

Child care programs with questions about the study should contact Dr. Ponder at 404-656-6297 or bentley.ponder@dec.al.ga.gov.

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 voluntary quality enhancement programs.

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.