



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-5957

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

Amy M. Jacobs
COMMISSIONER

June 29, 2017

Dear CAPS Recipient or Early Care and Education Provider,

As Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), I am writing to update you on changes to the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program that we delayed implementing in September of last year.

Reason for the delay: We wanted to gather more input about the future CAPS funding model from people impacted by the changes: CAPS providers; CAPS family recipients; and communities. The feedback we received has provided critical insights and informed discussions on how the CAPS program may be funded in the future.

DECAL will begin implementing the following planned changes after the entire state transitions over to Georgia Gateway, the new eligibility system that will take the place of COMPASS. More information will be shared at a later date.

FOR CURRENT CAPS FAMILIES:

- Families currently in the CAPS program will remain in the program as long as they meet the eligibility requirements at time of redetermination.
- Current CAPS recipients will NOT have to be a member of a priority group to be eligible to receive CAPS funding as long as the family meets the other eligibility requirements.
- The family fee calculation will be simplified.
- A family will receive a 15% discount off family fees if they choose a Quality Rated child care program.

FOR NEW FAMILIES APPLYING FOR CAPS:

- The funding restrictions instituted on August 1, 2016 remain in effect.
- New families applying for CAPS must meet the CAPS eligibility requirements AND be a member of a prescribed priority group. To see a list of priority groups, visit: www.caps.decals.ga.gov.

FOR PROVIDERS:

- Tiered bonus amounts of 5%, 10%, and 25% for 1, 2, and 3 star Quality Rated programs that became effective October 1, 2016 remain in effect.

DECAL's COMMITMENT TO GEORGIA FAMILIES, PROVIDERS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- We will continue to serve the number of children in the CAPS program that we served last year, approximately 50,000 children per week.

To learn more about these upcoming changes, join us for an **INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR** on July 11, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. You can register for this webinar online at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/370066310595236867>

Thank you for your patience and partnership as we work together to enhance the well-being of children, families, and the early care and education industry who serve Georgia's children every day.

Sincerely,



Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner