



Georgia Dept  
of Early Care  
and Learning  
BRIGHT FROM THE START

# DECAL's Community Response to Child Care Needs

*Bridgette Washington  
February 24, 2021  
Kiwanis Lunch Meeting*



# Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

*Our Mission: **Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)** enhances children's early education experience to promote their academic, social-emotional, and physical development in partnership with families, communities, the early care and education industry, and stakeholders.*





# Why is Early Childhood Education Important?

“85-90% of brain development takes place from birth to age five”



Children who enter kindergarten ready to succeed are more likely to read on grade level by third grade, graduate from high school, go on to college, and be productive members of the workforce.



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION



Early care and education generates **\$4.7 billion** of economic activity in Georgia.

Source: 2016 Economic Impact Study



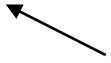
# What Does DECAL Do?



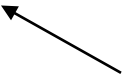
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- **Child Care Services**
- **Georgia's Pre-K Program**
- **Childcare and Parent Services**
- **Quality Rated Child Care**
- **Nutrition Services**
- **Research**
- **Head Start Collaboration Office**
- **Inclusion and Behavior Support Services**
- **Infant Toddler Program**
- **Professional Learning**
- **Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning**

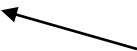
North West  
**Glenda Davis-Canteen**



Central West  
**Bridgette Washington**



South West  
**Edward Rowell**



North East  
**Clayton Adams**  
Lead Coordinator



Central East  
**Jasmin Godding**



South East  
**Kati Cosby**



Laura Wagner, Quality  
Rated Policy &  
Partnerships Director

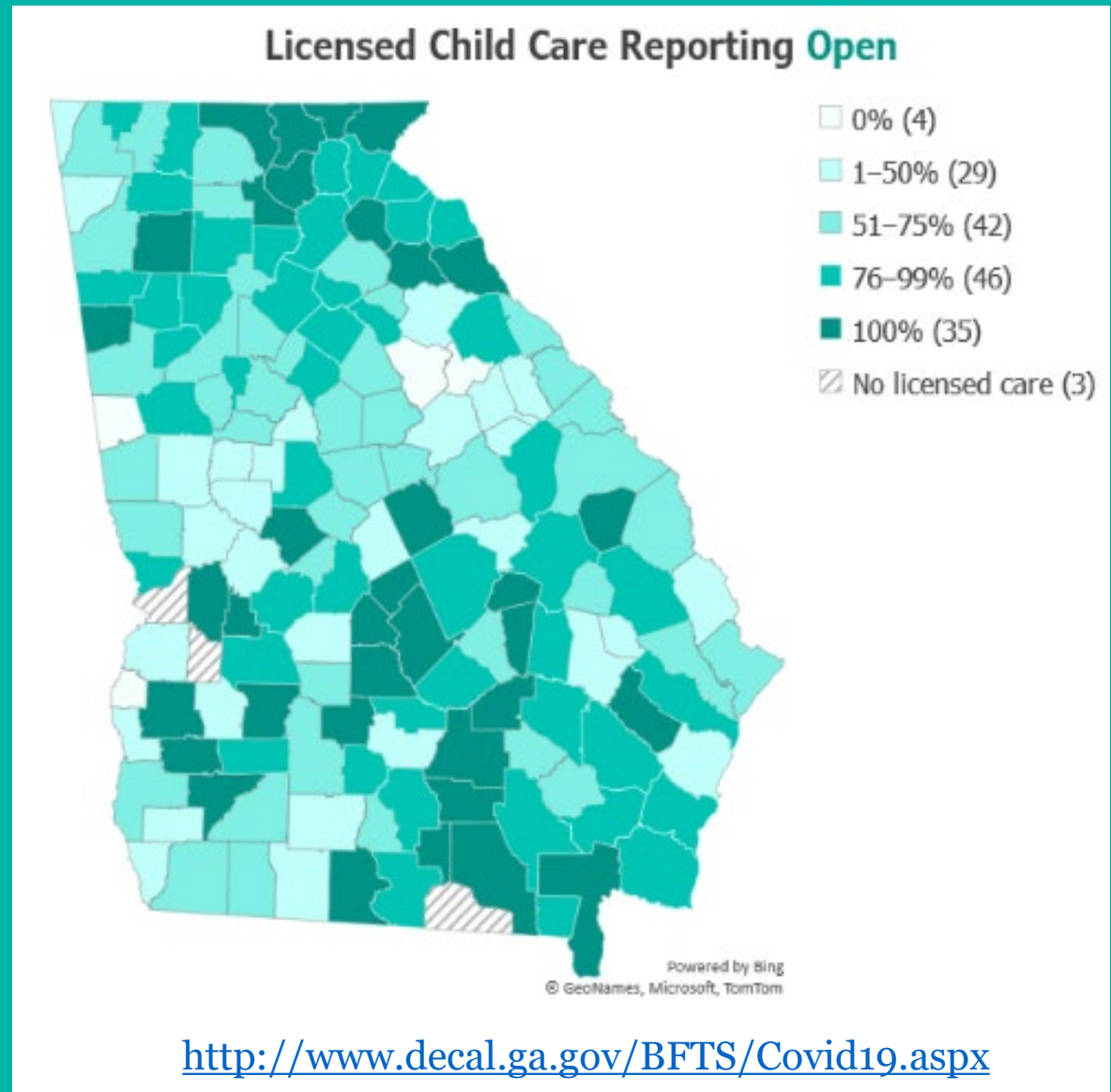


Jill O'Meara, Early  
Education Community  
Partnership Director

# 74%

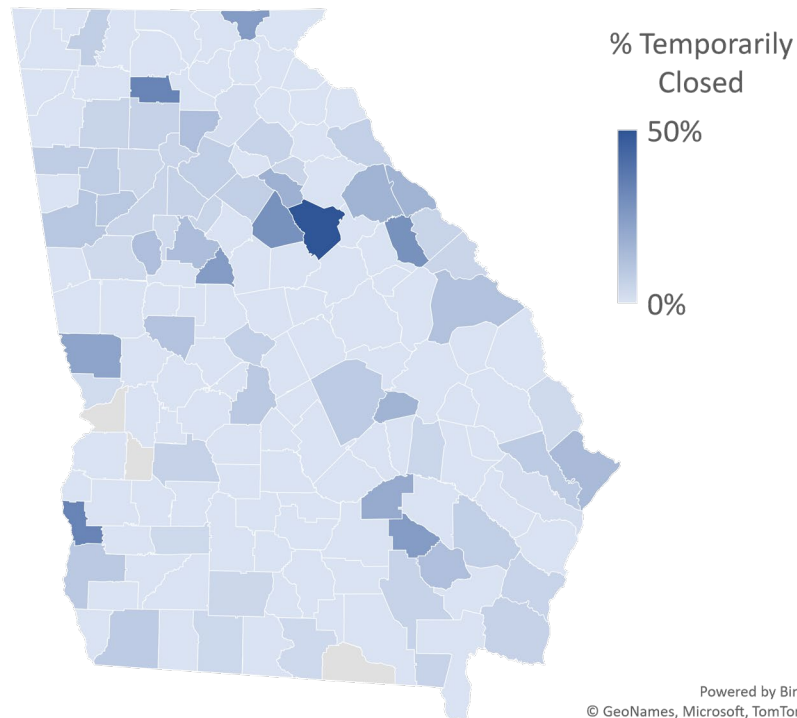
## Licensed Child Care Reporting Open in Georgia

DECAL Administrative Data as of 8/31/2020

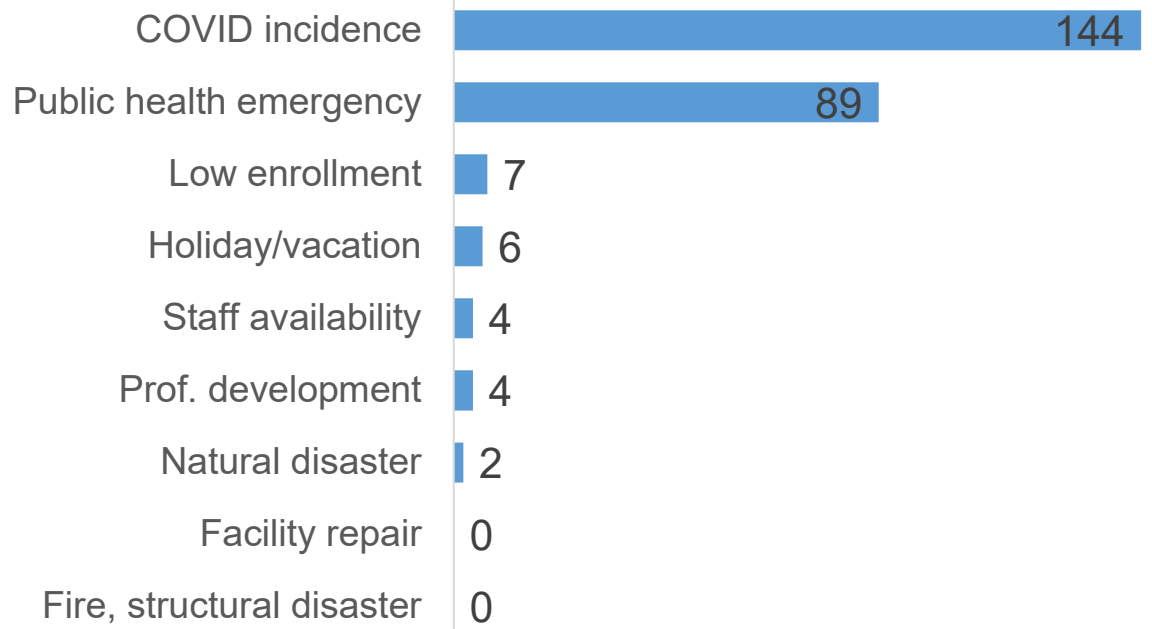


# Current Landscape of Child Care

- **256** licensed providers (5.6%) are currently reporting a temporary closure from 61 counties.



## Temporary Closure Reason



- **Public health emergency** and an **incidence of COVID** are the most common closure reasons.





# DECAL's Pandemic Response

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- COVID-19 webpage and FAQs continuously
- Continuous communication with providers, families, and communities
  - Podcasts
  - Webinars
  - Social Media
  - Child Care Engagement Networks (2-tier approach)
    - Monthly Virtual Meetings
    - Bi-Monthly Newsletters
  - Birth to Eight Meetings
- Tracking program closures and other COVID-19 related data
- Suspended on-site visits
  - CCS conducting virtual licensing visits
  - Quality Rated piloting alternative rating options
- Continuing Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) payments
- Summer Feeding Service Program
  - Serving Meals during Unanticipated School Closures
- Funding opportunities



# STABLE

## Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities

- DECAL has awarded over \$92 million in CARES funding to licensed child care programs in Georgia impacted by COVID-19.
  - The first round (May 2020) DECAL awarded more than **\$38.8 million in financial support to 3,789 licensed child care providers.**
  - The second round (December 2020) DECAL awarded more than **\$54 million in financial supports to 3,677 providers.**

[http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/release\\_STABLE%20Update%2012-14-2020.pdf](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/release_STABLE%20Update%2012-14-2020.pdf)





# SOLVE

## Supporting Onsite Learning for Virtual Education

- Funding Between \$17 and \$19 million provided by Governor Kemp's Office in part of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding.
- Provides financial assistance for school age students of public school systems that are using a virtual-only learning model and/or if there is an in-person option, it is 50% or less of the time.
- **Scholarships help pay for care, supervision, and support during the school day for students engaged in virtual learning and are enrolled in child care while parents work.**

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/CAPS/Solve.aspx> .



# CRRSA Funding & Early Learning

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DECAL has received funds from the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA).

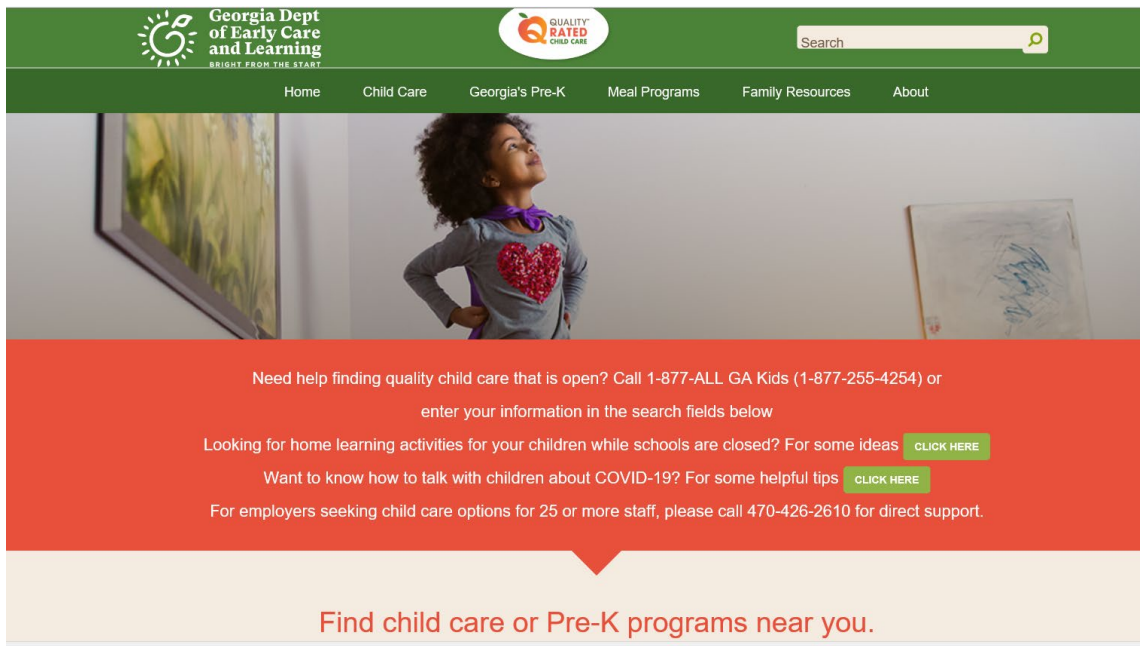
DECAL will distribute the funding in phases.

The Phase 1 plan includes:

- Round 3 STABLE Payments for ECE Providers
- Supplemental Payment to the ECE workforce
- Support for CAPS Families
- Competitive grant for programs serving school-age children



# http://qualityrated.org



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QUALITY RATED CHILD CARE

Search

Home Child Care Georgia's Pre-K Meal Programs Family Resources About

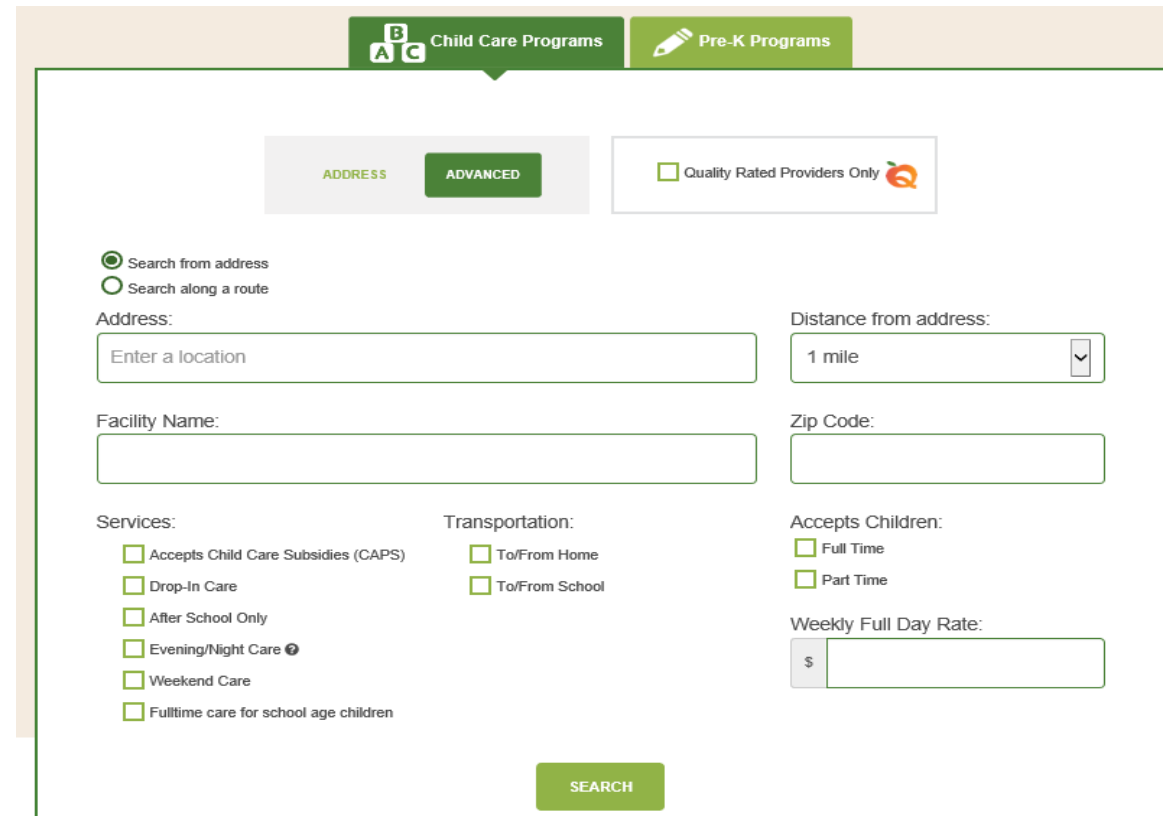
Need help finding quality child care that is open? Call 1-877-ALL GA Kids (1-877-255-4254) or enter your information in the search fields below

Looking for home learning activities for your children while schools are closed? For some ideas [CLICK HERE](#)

Want to know how to talk with children about COVID-19? For some helpful tips [CLICK HERE](#)

For employers seeking child care options for 25 or more staff, please call 470-426-2610 for direct support.

Find child care or Pre-K programs near you.



Child Care Programs Pre-K Programs

ADDRESS ADVANCED

Quality Rated Providers Only

Search from address  
 Search along a route

Address:

Distance from address:

Facility Name:

Zip Code:

Services:

- Accepts Child Care Subsidies (CAPS)
- Drop-In Care
- After School Only
- Evening/Night Care
- Weekend Care
- Fulltime care for school age children

Transportation:

- To/From Home
- To/From School

Accepts Children:

- Full Time
- Part Time

Weekly Full Day Rate: \$

SEARCH

# Child Care Challenges in Your Community



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# How Do You Stay Connected To Early Learning Resources in Your Community?



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# How YOU Can Support Your Local Community

- Continue to communicate the importance of access to high-quality care
- Check in with local programs about their needs during the pandemic
- Direct families and programs to DECAL resources, such as CAPS and SOLVE scholarships
- Join a Birth to Eight Meeting





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# Thank You!

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