

Georgia's Use of CRRSA Child Care Funding

Fact Sheet | March 2021

Georgia received **\$404 million** in supplemental CCDBG funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, passed in December 2020. This is in addition to **\$145 million** in supplemental CCDBG funding the state received in the CARES Act, passed in March 2020.

States were required to submit a plan for their use of CRRSA funds to the Department of Health and Human Services by February 26, 2021. In early March, state's Department of Early Care and Learning, or DECAL, announced plans to use funds to support child care programs and their workforce, and working families with young children. The funding will be administered in phases, with the first phase supporting comprehensive, broad support, and phases two and beyond to be more strategic and targeted investments based off specific needs.

DECAL will administer this funding in context of the following: The funding is one-time in nature, and the state does not expect to receive this level of funding from the federal government annually; and, therefore, the projects the state will fund with these resources are one-time in nature and will not require an on-going appropriation to accomplish the goals of each project. The current proposal for funding during Phase 1 is described below but is subject to final approval.

Phase 1.

Support for providers. The state will offer another round of Short Term Assistance Benefit for Licensed Entities (STABLE) payments to all open, licensed child care providers. As with the previous STABLE payments, first established with [CARES Act funding](#), providers may determine how to use the funds to best meet the needs of their program. Funds may be used to pay for salaries and benefits for lead teachers, assistant teachers, and other employees, including substitute teachers; offer tuition relief for families; cover lease or mortgage payments and utilities, cleaning supplies, classroom materials and supplies, and unreimbursed food; and to purchase additional supplies required by CDC guidelines. This payment will be based on program capacity, not on attendance, for programs that are open and available to care for children.

Support for the early childhood workforce. The state will offer early childhood workers an "Early Childhood Professionals Bonus" to help offset lost wages, promote recruitment and retention, and reward quality among professionals. All pre-K teachers, assistant teachers, child care teachers, and staff are eligible to receive a one-time bonus worth \$1,000. Eligible individuals must be working in licensed child care programs, Department of Defense programs, Early Head Start and Head Start programs, or at pre-K programs in public schools.

Support for Families. The state will eliminate copayments for families receiving a state child care subsidy. DECAL will pay the provider directly for the full rate, for 12 months.

Supporting School-Aged Care. The state is setting aside a total of \$5 million of their supplemental funding for a School Age Grant to support child care providers who are caring for and supporting school-aged children while they attend school virtually, including during the summer months while providing

academic and socially enriching care. Licensed child care providers who serve school age children and license-exempt providers who have served a child who has received a child care subsidy within the last two years will be eligible to receive a School Age Grant. Funding may be used to enhance technology to support students who attend school virtually and to support summer education activities to prevent learning loss. Funds may also be used for equipment, materials, and after school curriculum designed specifically for children ages 5 to 12.

More information available [here](#), including how the [state spent its CARES Act funding in 2020](#).