

# CAPS/QR 2021 GOAL - GENERAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is the CAPS/QR 2021 Goal?

All programs receiving Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) funding must be Quality Rated, earning 1, 2, or 3 stars, by December 31, 2021 to continue to receive CAPS funding.

## Why is DECAL pursuing this 2021 Goal?

High-quality early care and education supports healthy child development and sets the foundation for life-long learning. DECAL has the vision that every child in Georgia will have access to high-quality early care and education regardless of family income or location. By requiring that programs who receive CAPS funding become Quality Rated, we will increase the number of high-quality programs serving our most vulnerable children and increase the number of high-quality options from which parents can choose. We will also ensure responsible stewardship for Georgia taxpayers, by being committed to investing in the best environments and experiences for young children.

## I am not currently a CAPS provider, how will my program benefit if I offer CAPS?

By participating in CAPS, child care programs demonstrate their commitment to ensuring families with lower incomes have equal access to high-quality early learning environments. In addition, CAPS providers who earn a one-, two-, or three-star rating in Quality Rated are eligible for tiered reimbursement, which provides a quality bonus of 10%, 20%, or 40% of the net reimbursement amount (after family fee). Two- and three-star Quality Rated providers also may have the opportunity to apply for Quality Rated Subsidy Grants (which provide steady funding for a fixed number of eligible children) as those grants become available. To learn more about how to become a CAPS provider visit the CAPS website at <https://caps.dec.state.ga.us/en/CAPSProviderHowTo>.

## I am a CAPS provider, but I am not Quality Rated and have not signed up to start the process, is it too late?

It is never too late to sign up and get started with Quality Rated. The sooner you create your Quality Rated account the sooner you can sign up for your 2021 cohort group slot to ensure that you can be rated in time to meet the CAPS/QR 2021 deadline. It is quick and easy to get started with Quality Rated and you will be eligible for free technical assistance, supports, and resources from your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency. To get started today visit the Quality Rated website at <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/> and look for the Create Account button under the New Users section on the left hand side of the web page.

## How is DECAL working to ensure that all CAPS providers can be rated by the end of 2021?

We are implementing the following system changes to assist programs in meeting the goal by December 31, 2021:

- **Automatic Rating Extensions** will be granted for all programs rated in 2018 who have an expiration date in 2021. These programs will renew their rating in 2022.
- **Voluntary Requests for Reassessments** will be suspended for all programs that received a traditional rating in 2019 and 2020.
- **Cohort Groups** have been developed to allow all programs seeking their first rating to sign up for a guaranteed slot in 2021.

For more information on any of these system changes, view the individual Frequently Asked Questions document for each system change.

## I am not a CAPS provider but would like to be rated by the end of 2021, can I still sign up to become Quality Rated?

Yes. We encourage you to apply and proceed with the Quality Rating process by visiting the QR website at <https://qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us/>. Although scheduling priority will be given to programs serving CAPS families to assist them in meeting the CAPS/QR 2021 goal, Quality Rated will have cohort group slots available for non-CAPS programs to participate. We would also like for you to strongly consider making your program available to CAPS

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families. The more high-quality programs that are available to all of Georgia's children benefits us all. If you are interested in becoming a CAPS provider, please visit the CAPS page on our DECAL website

<https://caps.decal.ga.gov/en/CAPSPProviderHowTo>.

**I am not a CAPS provider but would like to be rated by the end of 2021. I have signed up for Quality Rated, will I be able to get technical assistance from my local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCR&R)?**

The six regional CCR&R agencies provide free on-site training, technical assistance, coaching, and mentoring services for all programs pursuing a Star Rating, in addition to helping programs access mini-grant funds for classroom materials. Due to the CAPS/QR 2021 deadline, CCR&R staff will begin prioritizing their resources and services to programs accepting CAPS scholarships. However, there may be some availability for non-CAPS programs to be supported. You can contact your local CCR&R for more information regarding their availability for assistance during 2021 by visiting the CCR&R page on our DECAL website at <http://decal.ga.gov/CCS/CCRRSystem.aspx>.

**How can I receive more information about the Quality Rated?**

If you have general questions about the Quality Rated process, such as the requirements you need to complete in order to become rated, you can check out our following FAQ pages on the Quality Rated website:

- General QR FAQs <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/Shared/Help.aspx?v=faq>
- Environment Rating Scales (ERS) FAQs <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/Shared/Help.aspx?v=ers>.

If this information does not answer your questions, or if you have questions specific to your program, please contact the Quality Rated Help Desk at [QualityRated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:QualityRated@decal.ga.gov) or call 1-855-800-7747.