



September 2018

DECAL to Increase Quality Rated Tier Reimbursement Rates



Webinar on 2018 CCDF Discretionary Funds

DECAL to Increase Tier Reimbursement Rates

We're excited to share that The Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning (DECAL) received an additional \$93 million in discretionary funding from the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), which will be used to increase tier reimbursement rates for providers with a 1-, 2-, or 3-Star Quality Rating.

The agency will also use the funds to: raise child care quality and increase access to high-quality early childhood education, with an emphasis on infant-toddler care; expand inclusion services; increase workforce professional learning supports; and maintain high safety standards.

The funding plan supports DECAL's strategic priorities and its commitment to bolstering Georgia's families, early education programs, and the workforce.

As a result of this additional funding, DECAL is increasing tier reimbursement rates to 10, 20, and 40% of the payment rate for 1-, 2-, and 3-star Quality Rated providers, respectively.

Look What's New!



New Quality Rated Signs

We're excited to share that every Quality Rated child care center in Georgia will be receiving a new display sign to announce with pride that they are **Quality Rated!** Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is providing the signs in partnership with the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning, through a generous grant from the United Way of Greater Atlanta with support from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation.

The new signs are:

- Brightly colored for high visibility

This is an increase from the previous rates of 5, 10, and 25%. This increase supports providers committed to raising quality and helps DECAL ensure that all eligible providers serving families receiving CAPS scholarships earn a star rating by December 31, 2020.

The increased tier rates take effect on October 1, 2018.

To learn more about DECAL's plans for this additional funding, [click here](#) to read more or watch the webinar by clicking the photo above.

Apply for the 2019-2020 Quality Rated Advisory Committee



The Quality Rated Advisory Committee brings together child care providers, educators and stakeholders throughout the state, who are charged with creating meaningful reforms to Quality Rated. Early childhood education stakeholders and child care providers that are rated (within the past year) and participating in Quality Rated are eligible to apply. Your experiences in Quality Rated will provide direct feedback to Quality Rated staff, which will help to improve the Quality Rated program.



To apply, complete the application by visiting:
<https://tinyurl.com/hh5lqxl>

Applications are due
Tuesday, October 23, 2018 by 5 p.m.

[Click Here to Apply for the 2019-2020 Quality Rated Advisory Committee](#)

Quality Rated Peer Support Network Ambassador Spotlight

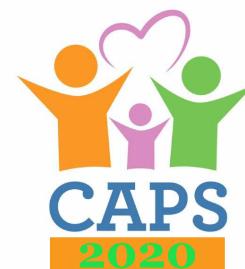
- Double sided
- Easy to set up; assembly takes less than 10 minutes
- Equipped with two built-in wheels for easy moving
- Weatherproof with a special design to resist high winds
- Large enough to ensure visibility (Frame Dimensions: 46"H x 30"W x 1.3"D; Base Dimensions: 29.5"W x 6.25"H x 24"D; Sign Insert: 28"W x 44"H)

The new Quality Rated signs will be shipped directly to your program between September 15, 2018, and December 31, 2018, in two separate cartons.

We ask that you check and update your DECAL KOALA account to be sure that your mailing address, including your zip code, is correct.

We'd love to see your new signs. You can tag us on social media at **@QualityRated** and **Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning!**

Quality Rated
and CAPS 2020



In December 2016, the DECAL Advisory Committee adopted the following: Quality Rated eligible providers must be star rated by 12/31/2020 in order to continue to receive Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) funding.

Quality Rated
Peer Support Network



Ambassador Spotlight: Jewell Moore

This month, we're recognizing Jewell Moore of the Lighthouse Early Start Academy in Vidalia, Georgia. Moore is a Quality Rated PSN Ambassador and operates two child care programs, Lighthouse Early Start Academy, Inc.; and First Steps Infant/Toddler Center. As the oldest sibling of eight children, Moore explained that serving families has been a calling for all of her life.

"My siblings were my students. I am much older," she said. Professionally, she has served families since 1985 as a teacher's aide and paraprofessional. As an educator, Moore has taught as a substitute teacher for all grade levels, and at a preschool in the Migrant Head Start. She's also served as an education coordinator, Pre-K lead teacher, and as a founder/headmistress at a school for grades K3-8th grade.

She served as a trainer for 12 counties with Concerted Services Center in the Head Start program, adjunct staff at a local technical college in their Early Childhood Education department and has served on an advisory board since 2002. Moore serves on a national board with Telamon Corp., which services 11 states. She is also on the Head Start Committee. She completed her Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC) in 2015, her Bright from the Start Coaching Certification in 2016 and her PLC in 2018.



Are you interested in the Peer Support Network?

The Peer Support Network (PSN) was created by child care providers to share ideas, success stories and lessons learned during the Quality Rated experience.

The PSN is open to all programs who are interested in earning or increasing their Quality Rated star rating. Topics of discussion are guided by the interests and needs of the participants.

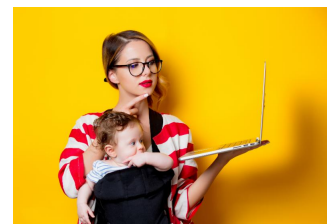
PSN Meetings are open to program owners, directors, and administrators.

Participants receive Bright from the Start ADM training hours.

Meetings are held in over 20 locations statewide.

To learn more about the Peer Support Network, email qualityratedpsn@dec.al.gov.

Update Your Profile on DECAL KOALA



Update Your DECAL KOALA Profile

Over 20,000 people shop for child care and summer camps on DECAL's website every month.

Did you know Quality Rated child care programs can add pictures and additional information to their DECAL KOALA profiles that families see when they search for child care on DECAL's website?



Jewell's staff has been with her from six weeks to 16 years. She loves them and spoils them with outings. For Mother's Day weekend, she took her staff on a trip to the Biltmore. "They work very hard together to make my vision happen," she said.

She said her child care programs are a true passion for her. "My children keep me busy. I can't get any administration work done because I love being with them; especially with the tots on the playground and the infants on the floor," Moore said.

As for PSN meetings, Moore said the meetings are important because they bring community leaders together in a space that is non-judgmental. "[Peer Support Network meetings] are a place where everyone knows your name and yes...as [the television show] 'Cheers' says, 'glad that you came,'" Moore said. "It's a support group that is developing into a mirrored place to see and hear others [who] experience the same issues and concerns as yours."

"They are a place to talk about business and a place to just talk about us. Meeting with your peers, whether they are in same county or a few towns over, supports and lifts you in all areas of your life. Physical, intellectual, and social-emotional domains aren't only assigned to growing children, they are for

You can add this information to your program's profile today. [Click here](#) to watch our webinar on how to update your profile.

Upcoming Events

Afterschool Community Conversations

Join Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) for their upcoming Afterschool Community Conversations to network with afterschool programs and community partners. Afterschool Community Conversations provide an opportunity to strategize on how to best support young people after school and during the summer. To learn more and register for one of these FREE events, [click here](#). Below are the next Afterschool Community Conversations events.

- **Rome, GA** - December 4, 2018 - 9am-12pm- Georgia Northwestern Technical College: Floyd County Campus
- **Athens, GA**- January 16, 2019 - 9:30am-12:30pm - Lyndon House Arts Center

Lights on Afterschool

Join Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) and afterschool programs across the state in celebrating the importance of afterschool on **October 25, 2018**. This event, which is part of the Afterschool Alliance's 19th annual nationwide Lights on Afterschool, calls attention to the importance of afterschool programs and resources required to keep the lights on and the doors open. To celebrate #GaLightsOn and learn more, [click here](#).

Milestone Tracker

CDC's Milestone Tracker App

us too, and the PSN helps support those adult needs," Moore said.

The PSN is important to Moore personally because she said, "no man or woman is on an island and we can reach more children and obtain more goals when a strong and viable support system is in place.

Moore believes the PSN is evolving into a neighborhood space, in one of the largest service industries, childcare. She explained that PSN meetings serve as a trusted place where providers can receive and exchange methods, strategies, systems and expand their circumference with like-minded and forward-thinking entrepreneurs.



As a PSN ambassador, Moore said the role has been testing with her busy life, but that facilitating meetings has been fairly easy. "The collaboration between the PSN support system from Bright from the Start, along with my PSN ambassador colleagues has created meaningful meetings that pertain to all childcare providers," Moore said.

She said the best thing about her PSN meetings is the time when they discuss "If I knew then what I know now." During this group activity with participants, she explained that the conversations seem to bring the group together.

One of Moore's favorite success stories from the PSN meetings was when she worked with a family learning home provider who stated that she was "just done with all the QR stuff" and didn't want to talk about.

"She came to one of the PSN meetings at the Vidalia Library. There were four or five providers and [they] just loved her over," Moore said. After that meeting, the provider has since attended more PSN meetings and Moore noticed the provider attended other trainings, where she now says that she's now open to beginning the process to become Quality Rated.

As Jewell's programs were going through the Quality Rated process, parents particularly noticed that the staff had completed the Wellness Program and were amazed at the changes in the menus. The staff is really committed to healthy



Want to monitor the development of children?
There's an App for that!

The CDC's Milestone Tracker App is free and easy to use. It is available in both English and Spanish for iPhone and Android phones. This app allows users to enter the name and date of birth of multiple children. It then automatically populates with an illustrated milestones checklist for families or care providers to complete. In addition, it provides a summary of the child's milestones that can be shared, activities to help with the child's development, tips for what to do if there are concerns about the child's development, and reminders for appointments and developmental screenings. Visit the iTunes App Store or the GooglePlay Store to download this very useful free tool! Childcare providers can also get free training on developmental monitoring and free materials from DECAL by [clicking here](#).

Quick Links

[Quality Rated Website](#)

[Quality Rated Program Manual](#)

[DECAL KOALA](#)

[Environment Rating Scales Institute](#)

[Quality Rated Facebook](#)

[Quality Rated Twitter](#)

[Quality Rated Instagram](#)

eating. They also noticed the enhancements to the learning centers and the consistency of improving routine care, like hand washing.

Moore and her husband have been married for 40 years. She's the mother of three children, the grandma or "GiGi" of two grandchildren, the "mother-in-love" of one and the faithful friend of a few.

For more information about the Peer Support Network or to put your name on a local PSN mailing list, contact Rachael Lee at Rachael.Lee@dec.al.ga.gov or call (404) 591-5663.

[Quality Rated YouTube](#)

Quality Rated
Help Desk

1-855-800-7747
qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov

From the Review Desk: Standard 4: Intentional Teaching Practices



To support your quality improvement efforts and to help your program achieve the highest star rating possible, we will, from time to time, offer helpful tips. We will further clarify or provide additional information on the five standards, that may help you in forming your responses, or in selecting the evidence you will upload.

Standard 4: Intentional Teaching Practices

Standard 4.1.1 states that programs should use an age appropriate curriculum that supports development across all five learning domains (physical development and motor skills, social and emotional development, approached to play and learning, communication, language and literacy and cognitive development and general knowledge) and is culturally, linguistically and developmentally appropriate.

Experts in the field agree that young people need more than reading and writing skills if they are to be successful in school, work, and life. Youth workers should provide opportunities for students to learn social emotional and character skills. The flexibility that afterschool offers provides not only the ability teach social emotional skills but use the additional time it affords for youth to practice them and apply them in social and academic settings.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL- a national organization that advances the practice of promoting integrated academic, social, and emotional learning for all children in preschool through high school) defines social emotional learning as "the process

through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions."

The curriculum narrative included in the Quality Rated portfolio should show how the curriculum is aligned with the Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development (ASYD) Quality Standards. The following social emotional activity is aligned to the ASYD quality element 4, which is relationships. To see an example of a social and emotional development activity, [click here](#).

Congratulations to the following
Quality Rated Child Care Programs



Enrichment Station / Decatur	★ ★ ★
Little Rascals / Statesboro	★ ★ ★
HOSLEY GAIL D. / College Park	★ ★ ★
Fourth Street Day Care Center / Columbus	★ ★ ★
ABC Another Bright Creation / Douglasville	★ ★ ★
Treehouse Academy / Lawrenceville	★ ★ ★
Heavenly Creations & Child Development Inc. / Augusta	★ ★ ★
Early Learners Daycare / Brunswick	★ ★ ★
Rising Stars Kids Academy / Lithonia	★ ★ ★
Trinity Learning Center / Eastman	★ ★ ★
Fun Villa Daycare/ Albany	★ ★ ★
Hollins Youalka E / Ellenwood	★ ★ ★

AUGUST 2018

[Click Here to See August 2018 Quality Rated Programs](#)

CONGRATS

TO THE #QUALITYRATED PROGRAMS WHO'VE INCREASED THEIR STAR RATING!

★ Childcare Network #206 / Forest Park	2 TO 3 STARS
★ Towne Lake Academy North Campus / Woodstock	1 TO 2 STARS
★ Sunbrook Academy at The Bridge / Carrollton	1 TO 2 STARS
★ Creekstone Academy / Lithonia	1 TO 2 STARS
★ Jackie's Lil Tooty Tots Daycare / Americus	2 TO 3 STARS
★ The Sunshine House #8 / Evans	2 TO 3 STARS
★ Lil' Blessings Inc / Ashburn	1 TO 3 STARS
★ Discovery Point #42 / Covington	1 TO 2 STARS
★ Globe's Learning Center / Atlanta	1 TO 2 STARS
★ Seven Oaks Academy / Lilburn	1 TO 2 STARS
★ Pinecrest Child Care Center / Cordele	2 TO 3 STARS
★ Herchig Tabitha J / Grovetown	2 TO 3 STARS
★ Lee Angela M / Martinez	2 TO 3 STARS

AUGUST 2018 

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