Adequately fund CAPS with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve the needs of low-income families.

Support the infant-toddler workforce by expanding scholarships and other supports.

Ensure that the social-emotional needs of infants and toddlers are supported in child care programs.

CAPS: Georgia's Child Care Subsidy Program
DECAL: Department of Early Child Care + Learning
CCDF: Child Care + Development Fund

Access to high-quality, comprehensive early learning, birth to five, yields a 13% return on investment through better outcomes in education, health, social behaviors, and employment.

Under this policy, only 14.8% of income-eligible children receive the child care subsidy. The cost of child care for a single child exceeds 40% of the earnings in a low-income family.

Parents who do not have access to child care for their children are often unable to work.

Children who do not have access to quality child care are often cared for in unhealthy, unregulated settings.

The cost of child care for an infant or toddler in Georgia exceeds the cost of annual tuition at an in-state public college or university.

The CAPS program eligibility is set at 50% of state median income, one of the lowest in the nation.

CCDF: Child Care + Development Fund

CHILD CARE IN GEORGIA FACTS AND FIGURES

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INFANT-TODDLER COALITION FOR QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE IN GEORGIA

Work with DECAL to identify strategies to:

1. Adequately fund CAPS with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve the needs of low-income families.

2. Support the infant-toddler workforce by expanding scholarships and other supports.

3. Ensure that the social-emotional needs of infants and toddlers are supported in child care programs.
HOW WE CAN WORK TO MEET OUR OBJECTIVES FOR QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE IN GEORGIA

**IMPROVE DATA SHARING**

- Add $10 million to the state CAPS budget to allow for rewarding child care facilities dedicated to improving quality.
- Advocate for the establishment of a data sharing mechanism on how families of infants and toddlers are accessing early learning, including the CAPS program.

**RE-EXAMINE**

- Increase the infant and toddler reimbursement rate to reflect lower ratios in care.
- Re-examine the funding needed to reduce the infant and toddler ratios as rates go up.

**INCREASE**

- Increase state fund for capital improvements.
- Build a strategy around the use of the new CCDF funding that prioritizes infants + toddlers.

**EXPAND**

- Expand CAPS eligibility to 65% of state median income to enable additional children to access the subsidy.
- Increase the tiered reimbursement rate so that 3-star rated programs are reimbursed at 75% of the market rate.
- Align the reimbursement rates with current market rates by 2020.

**OVER 1,500**

- New infants + toddlers to be served.

**PRIORITYIZES INFANTS + TODDLERS**

- Increase the tiered reimbursement rate so that 3-star rated programs are reimbursed at 75% of the market rate.
- Align the reimbursement rates with current market rates by 2020.

**PARTNER WITH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS**

- Partner with local school systems to increase coordination and understanding of infant and toddler needs.

**EXPAND**

- Expand CAPS eligibility to 65% of state median income to enable additional children to access the subsidy.

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