



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

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1-833-4GA-CAPS (1-833-442-2277)

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

October 21, 2021

Dear CAPS Family Member,

Through funding provided to DECAL by the federal **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)** and **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, we are increasing the number of children served by CAPS by 10,000. This increase in the number of children includes expanding CAPS eligibility income limits, making more children and families eligible for CAPS.

Effective November 1, 2021, CAPS will implement the **Emergency CAPS eligibility income limit policy waiver** and apply the following changes to the [CAPS maximum income limits](#):

- Increase the entry income threshold from 50% of the State Median Income (SMI) to 85% SMI. For example, the entry income threshold for a family of four is changing from \$42,426 to \$72,124 for initial eligibility.
- Increase the percentage of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) from 50% FPL to 150% FPL for families with very low-income priority group. For example, the income threshold for a family of four is changing from \$13,250 to \$39,750 (FPL) for families with very low income.

The increase in the CAPS eligibility income limits means that families who may not have been eligible for child care assistance provided by CAPS before MIGHT be eligible now. If you know family and friends who need help paying for child care, please share this news with them and advise them to apply for CAPS by visiting www.gateway.ga.gov and completing the online application.

To learn more about this new waiver, visit the CAPS **Updates** page at <https://caps.dec.al.ga.gov/en/Updates>, select **Emergency Policy Updates**, and then select [CAPS Emergency Policy Memorandum](#).

Call 1-833-4GA-CAPS (1-833-442-2277) if you have questions or need additional information. To learn more about CAPS policies and procedures, visit <https://caps.dec.al.ga.gov/en/>.

Sincerely,

Elisabetta Kasfir
Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs