



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334
1-833-4GA-CAPS (1-833-442-2277)

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

October 21, 2021

Dear Child Care Provider,

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 temporary increase in the number of children served includes expanding CAPS eligibility income limits, making more children and families eligible for CAPS. Additionally, to help providers raise their quality of care they provide, CAPS will increase Quality Rated tiered bonus payments.

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](#) and increase the **Quality Rated tiered bonus payments**:

- 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.
- Increase Quality Rated tiered bonus payments by 15 percentage points per star level:
 - One-star programs will increase from 10% to 25%
 - Two-star programs will increase from 20% to 35%
 - Three-star programs will increase from 40% to 55%
 - Child care programs with a CAPS/Quality Rated Probationary or Provisional status will receive a 15% increase from current CAPS base rates.

We encourage you to reach out to families in your program or your community who need child care but who may not have been eligible for the CAPS program previously. 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](#).

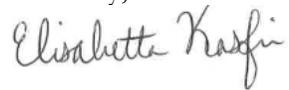
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Call 1-833-4GA-CAPS (1-833-442-2277) if you have questions or need additional information. To learn more about CAPS policies and procedures, visit <https://caps.decal.ga.gov/en/>.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serve Georgia children and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elisabetta Kasfir".

Elisabetta Kasfir
Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs