

## **Expanding Parents' Access to Nontraditional Delivery (EXPAND) Grants Proposal Guidelines**

### Background

In 2021, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) contracted with the Urban Institute to conduct stakeholder engagement with Georgia families, child care providers, the early care and education (ECE) workforce, DECAL staff, and other stakeholder groups about supports Georgia's ECE system needed. Results of this stakeholder engagement were used to inform how federal COVID-19 relief funding should be used to support Georgia's ECE system. The report and related information can be found here:

<https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/BftS/COVID-19ReliefFunding.aspx>.

One of Urban's key recommendations based on feedback from families was to support child care providers in extending their hours of operation. DECAL then asked Urban to gather further information on the need for nontraditional hour (i.e., between 6:00 PM and 7:00 AM on weekdays and any time on weekends) child care in Georgia and make recommendations for a grant program to support this need. DECAL designed the Expanding Parents' Access to Nontraditional Delivery (EXPAND) grants based on Urban's analyses of secondary data, administrative data, focus groups with parents, and provider survey analyses.

### EXPAND Grants Overview

DECAL is offering three types of grants funded by the American Rescue Plan Act designed to address child care needs during nontraditional hours, such as evenings, overnight, early mornings, weekends and variable shift schedules. One of the EXPAND Grants is for licensed child care providers to expand their operating hours, a second is for businesses to support their staff working nontraditional hours, and the third is for government entities and nonprofit organizations to form a collaborative that will address this challenge in their local community. There is a large range of potential funding use under the grants, and they will be administered with considerable support from DECAL staff. This includes support related to developing budgets and project plans, working with assigned subject matter experts (SME) from DECAL, and identifying evaluation options.

The three types of grants are described below:

#### **1. EXPAND Grants for Licensed Child Care Providers**

- **Overview & Purpose:**

Even a small adjustment to a child care provider's operating hours can come with considerable costs, which is especially true with current workforce challenges. Revenues from parent fees alone cannot cover these costs. EXPAND Grants aim to make up that difference to support extended hours that will meet families' needs. The grants will also provide DECAL with necessary information on how to help providers sustain extended hours and offer supports more widely.

Licensed child care providers will be awarded grants to support them opening earlier, staying open longer, and/or opening on weekends. Potential uses of funds include

staff pay and benefits, child transportation costs, and necessary health and safety improvements to support extended hours of operation.

- Eligible Recipients: Licensed child care providers in good standing with DECAL programs
- Number of Grantees: 3 – 5
- Award Amount: \$50,000 – \$500,000

## **2. EXPAND Grants for For-Profit Businesses**

- Overview & Purpose:

DECAL will award business entities with grants to explore and implement a project that addresses the need for nontraditional hour child care among their own staff. These grants will fund the development of a project and then a pilot implementation.

Potential uses of funds include providing stipends to families for child care expenses, creating resources that can help match families to providers that meet their needs, and working with DECAL and other local resources to increase licensed child care options in their community.

- Eligible Recipients: For-profit businesses
- Number of Grantees: 3 – 4
- Award Amount: \$100,000 – \$750,000

## **3. EXPAND Collaborative Grants for Government Entities and Nonprofit Organizations**

- Overview & Purpose:

DECAL will award government entities and nonprofit organizations, including technical schools and universities, with grants to explore and implement a project that addresses the need for nontraditional hour child care in the local community, including within their organizations if needed. The grantee will form or strengthen a collaborative of community partners who will support grant activities that address child care needs among staff, students, and other local families. These grants will fund the development of a project and then a pilot implementation.

Potential uses of funds include providing stipends to families for child care expenses, creating resources that can help match families to providers that meet their needs, and working with DECAL and other local resources to increase licensed child care options in their community.

- Eligible Recipients: Government entities and 501(c)(3) non-profits
- Number of Grantees: 3-4

- Award Amount: \$100,000 – \$750,000

### Timeline

- June 22: Online proposal opens at <https://decalsmapply.us/prog/EXPANDGrants>
- June 23: Informational webinar on this funding opportunity will be held at 1:00 PM ET. Register for the webinar here: <https://decalsmapply.us/prog/EXPANDGrants>
- July 17: Proposals due to DECAL by 5:00 PM ET
- August 14: Applicants are contacted
- October 1: Grant agreements are executed with selected organizations
- January 1, 2024: Project implementation begins
- December 31, 2024: Grant term ends

### Proposal Requirements<sup>1</sup>

EXPAND Grant applicants must submit a proposal that describes a project they propose to design and implement to address local need for nontraditional hour child care. Applicants who demonstrate the most compelling needs and strong project plans will be invited to work with DECAL to potentially be awarded the grants. DECAL may also consider areas of Georgia with the highest need for child care during nontraditional hours when selecting applicants.

Proposals should be completed in SurveyMonkey Apply at the following link: <https://decalsmapply.us/prog/EXPANDGrants>. If you have not used SurveyMonkey Apply before, you will be prompted to create an account before beginning the proposal. Information about what will be required in the proposal is included below.

#### **1. EXPAND Grants for Licensed Providers**

- DECAL license number, program information and location, contact information, and current operating hours
- Project Abstract and Program Description (500 words): The applicant should present a concise summary of the proposed project including its goals and objectives. This section should also include a description of the licensed child care program, such as: information about the number and ages of children the program currently and is able to serve, current teaching staff, and capacity to implement the proposed project.
- Identified need for nontraditional hour care in the area (500 words): The applicant should identify the area they serve and the need for nontraditional hour child care of the families they already serve or families in the area. This section should demonstrate the significance of the local need that could be addressed by a Nontraditional Hour Child Care Grant. Relevant data about known families with nontraditional hour care needs or industries in the area that have staff with nontraditional hour care needs should be presented.

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<sup>1</sup> Proposal requirements are subject to change.

- High-level project plan (1,000 words): The applicant should present a compelling project plan that outlines how the licensed child care program will address the nontraditional hour child care needs of local families. The plan should include: hours of operation or other policies the program proposes to change, resources and supports the program would need to implement the project, and a description of how families would benefit from the project.

## **2. EXPAND Grants for For-Profit Businesses**

- Contact and business information, location
- Project Abstract and Business Description (500 words): The applicant should present a concise summary of the proposed project including its goals and objectives. This section should also include information about the applicant business, such as: a description of the business's work, staff who would work on the project, and capacity to implement the proposed project.
- Identified need for nontraditional hour care in the applicant business (500 words): The applicant should identify the primary area their staff with nontraditional hour child care needs are located in. This section should demonstrate the significance of the need that could be addressed by an EXPAND Grant. Relevant data about the need for nontraditional hour child care among staff should be presented.
- High-level project plan (1,000 words): The applicant should present a compelling project plan that outlines how the business will address the nontraditional hour child care needs of staff. The plan should include: a description of the project being proposed, resources and supports needed to implement the project, and a description of how families would benefit from the project. The applicant should also address how their proposed project would align with relevant child care business tax credit. This includes how the grant would complement their use of tax credits, how the grant would help them explore future access to tax credits, or what the grant would allow them to do that existing tax credits do not. Both state and federal business tax credits should be considered. Information is available at the links below.
  - Georgia child care tax credits: <https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2022/title-48/chapter-7/article-2/section-48-7-40-6/>
  - Federal child care tax credits: <https://www.uschamber.com/workforce/employer-guide-to-childcare-assistance-and-tax-credits>

## **3. EXPAND Collaborative Grants for Government Entities and Nonprofit Organizations**

- Contact and organization information, location
- Potential community partners

- Project Abstract and Organization Description (500 words): The applicant should present a concise summary of the proposed project including its goals and objectives. This section should also include information about the applicant organization, such as: a description of the organization's work, staff who would work on the project, and capacity to implement the proposed project.
- Identified need for nontraditional hour care in the local community (500 words): The applicant should identify the primary area the families they propose to serve with nontraditional hour child care needs are located in. This section should demonstrate the significance of the local need that could be addressed by an EXPAND Grant. Relevant data about the need for nontraditional hour child care in the local community, including within the applicant and partner organizations if needed, should be presented.
- High-level project plan (1,000 words): The applicant should present a compelling project plan that outlines how the organization and collaborative partners will address the nontraditional hour child care needs of local families. The plan should include: a description of the project being proposed, resources and supports needed to implement the project, and a description of how families would benefit from the project.

#### More Information

Direct questions related to this grant opportunity to [EXPANDGrants@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:EXPANDGrants@dec.al.ga.gov).

Register for an informational webinar on June 23, 2023 here: [https://dec.al-ga-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_VtrXcpYYTCa6Ymy6Xi6\\_A](https://dec.al-ga-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VtrXcpYYTCa6Ymy6Xi6_A)