

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan  
For

Georgia  
FFY 2012-2013

**PART 1  
ADMINISTRATION**

**1.1 Contact Information**

The agency shown below has been designated by the Chief Executive Officer of the State (or Territory), to represent the State (or Territory) as the Lead Agency. The Lead Agency agrees to administer the program in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations and the provisions of this Plan, including the assurances and certifications appended hereto.(658D, 658E)

**1.1.1 Who is the Lead Agency designated to administer the CCDF program?** Identify the Lead Agency and Lead Agency's Chief Executive Officer designated by the State/Territory. ACF will send official grant correspondence such as grant awards, grant adjustments, Plan approvals and disallowance notifications to the designated contact identified here. (658D(a), §98.10)

Name of Lead Agency: [Department of Human Services](#)

Address of Lead Agency: [2 Peachtree Street N.W. Suite 29-250 Atlanta, GA 30303](#)

Name and Title of the Lead Agency's Chief Executive Officer: [Clyde L, Reese, III, Esq.](#)

Phone Number: [404-651-6314](#)

Fax Number: [404-651-8669](#)

E-Mail Address: [creese@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:creese@dhr.state.ga.us)

Web Address for Lead Agency (if any): [www.dhr.ga.gov](http://www.dhr.ga.gov)

**1.1.2 Who is the CCDF administrator?** Identify the CCDF administrator designated by the Lead Agency, the day-to-day contact, with responsibility for administering the State/Territory's CCDF program. ACF will send programmatic communications such as program announcements, program instructions, and data collection instructions to the designated contact identified here. **If there is more than one designated contact with equal or shared responsibility for administering the CCDF program, please identify the co-administrator or entity with administrative responsibilities and include contact information.** (§§98.16(a) and (c)(1))

**a) Contact Information for CCDF Administrator:**

Name of CCDF Administrator: [Mona Jackson](#)

Title of CCDF Administrator: [Project Director](#)

Address of CCDF Administrator: [Division of Family and Children Services, Child Care Unit, 2 Peachtree Street N.W., Suite 21-293 Atlanta, GA 30303](#)

Phone Number: [404-657-3434](#)

Fax Number: [404-657-3489](#)

E-Mail Address: [mdjackso@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:mdjackso@dhr.state.ga.us)

Web Address for Lead Agency (if any): [www.dhr.ga.gov](http://www.dhr.ga.gov)

Phone Number for CCDF program information

(for the public) (if any): [404-657-3443](tel:404-657-3443)

Web Address for CCDF program

(for the public) (if any): <http://dfcs.dhr.ga.gov/caps>

Web Address for CCDF program policy manual

(if any): [www.odis.dhr.state.ga.us](http://www.odis.dhr.state.ga.us)

Web Address for CCDF program administrative rules

(if any): [www.odis.dhr.state.ga.us](http://www.odis.dhr.state.ga.us)

## **b) Contact Information for CCDF Co-Administrator (if applicable):**

Name of CCDF Co-Administrator:

Title of CCDF Co-Administrator:

Address of CCDF Co-Administrator:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

E-Mail Address:

Description of the role of the Co-Administrator:

## **1.2 Estimated Funding**

### **1.2.1 What is your expected level of funding for the first year of the FY 2012 - FY 2013 plan period?**

The Lead Agency estimates that the following amounts will be available for child care services and related activities during the 1-year period from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012. (§98.13(a)).

FY 2012 Federal CCDF allocation (Discretionary, Mandatory and Matching): \$ [162,580,261](#)

Federal TANF Transfer to CCDF: \$ [600,000](#)

Direct Federal TANF Spending on Child Care: \$ [600,000](#)

State CCDF Maintenance-of-Effort Funds: \$ [22,182,651](#)

State Matching Funds: \$ [54,234,300](#)

**Reminder** - Lead Agencies are reminded that not more than 5 percent of the aggregate CCDF funds, including federal funds and required State Matching funds, shall be expended on administration costs (§98.52) once all FY2012 funds have been liquidated. State Maintenance-of-Effort funds are not subject to this limitation.

**1.2.2 Which of the following funds does the Lead Agency intend to use to meet the CCDF Matching and maintenance-of-effort (MOE) requirements described in 98.53(e) and 98.53(h)? Check all that apply.**

Territories not required to meet CCDF Matching and MOE requirements should mark  N/A here

**Note:** The Lead Agency must check at least public and/or private funds as matching, even if pre-kindergarten (pre-k) funds also will be used.

Public funds to meet the CCDF Matching Fund requirement. Public funds may include any general revenue funds, county or other local public funds, State/Territory-specific funds (tobacco tax, lottery), or any other public funds.  
If checked, identify source of funds:

[State General Revenue Funds](#)

If known, identify the estimated amount of public funds the Lead Agency will receive:  
[32,051,649](#)

Private Donated Funds to meet the CCDF Matching Fund requirement. Only private received by the designated entities or by the Lead Agency may be counted for match purposes. ( 98.53(f))

If checked, are those funds:

donated directly to the State?

donated to a separate entity(ies) designated to receive private donated funds?

If checked, identify the number of entities designated to receive private donated funds and provide name, address, contact and type:

If known, identify the estimated amount of private donated funds the Lead Agency will receive:

State expenditures for Pre-K programs to meet the CCDF Matching Funds requirement.

If checked, provide the estimated percentage of Matching Fund requirement that will be met with pre-k expenditures ( not to exceed 30%):

If percentage is more than 10% of the Matching fund requirement, describe how the State will coordinate its pre-k and child care services:

If known, identify the estimated amount of pre-k funds the Lead Agency will receive for Matching Funds requirement:

Describe the Lead Agency efforts to ensure that pre-k programs meet the needs of working parents:

State expenditures for Pre-K programs to meet the CCDF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements.

If checked,

The Lead Agency assures that its level of effort in full-day/full-year child care services has not been reduced, pursuant to 98.53(h)(1).

Estimated percentage of MOE Fund requirement that will be met with pre-k expenditures ( not to exceed 20%): 10%

If percentage is more than 10% of the MOE fund requirement, describe how the State will coordinate its pre-k and child care services to expand the availability of child care:

If known, identify the estimated amount of pre-k funds the Lead Agency will receive for MOE Fund requirement: 22,182,651

Describe the Lead Agency efforts to ensure that pre-k programs meet the needs of working parents:

[The Lead Agency works closely with the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning \(DECAL\), the state agency that administers Georgia's Pre-K Program, to ensure that the needs of working parents are met.](#)

**1.2.3 Describe the activities for which quality funds (including targeted quality funds for infants and toddlers, school-age children, and resource and referral) will be used in FY 2012.** In as much detail possible, list the activities that will be funded, the estimated amount of CCDF quality funds that will be used for each activity, and how these activities relate to the Lead Agency's overall goal of improving the quality of child care for low-income children.

Activity	Estimated Amount of CCDF Quality Funds (indicate if targeted funds will be used)	Purpose	Projected Impact and Anticipated Results
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Child care resource and referral services	\$6,500,000	Provide parent referrals; inclusion services; and technical assistance and professional development services for child care providers.	See Sections 3.3.8a and 3.3.9.
Infant toddler network			a) Child care programs participating in technical assistance will achieve measurable quality improvements in infant and toddler care as measured pre- and post-technical assistance using the appropriate Environment Rating Scales.
Professional Development System	\$1,800,000	a) Provide technical assistance and training to professionals working with infants and toddlers.	b) The website will be launched by January 2012 with content based on the Program for Infant and Toddler Care. Site will educate and inform families and early childhood educators.
Research and Evaluation	\$3,520,000	b) Develop a highly-interactive website for families and professionals.	
Monitoring for Compliance			
Inclusion Network	\$500,000		
	\$6,750,000	Registry, trainer and training approval; scholarships and incentives for early education professionals.	
	\$ 275,000		
		a) Completing an early learning standards alignment; developing training on the revised standards. b) Inter-rater reliability project. c) Professional Development Study (Using other funding, including Race to the Top funds.) d) Pre-K Longitudinal Study (using other funds). e) Grade Level Reading Campaign Research (supplemented with other funds).	See Sections 3.2.8, 3.3.9 and 3.4.7. a) See Section 3.2.8. b) See Section 3.1.6c. c) Study will compare four different models of Professional Development, all based on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System, in sampled Georgias Pre-K classrooms. All models align with increasing the quality and quantity of teacher child interactions. Study will help develop statewide professional development systems. d) Longitudinal Study will gauge the impact of Georgias Pre-K programs with a representative sample. Study will measure classroom quality and child outcomes. e) Georgia is participating in the Annie E. Casey Grade Level Reading initiative. For this project we are measuring changes in Pre-K CLASS scores and Toddler CLASS scores for programs in five Grade Level Reading Districts. This project will help us develop advanced professional development for Toddler
		a) Provide technical assistance and monitoring to over 6,700 licensed and registered programs. b) Conduct site visits to over 1,500 unregulated child care settings that care for children who receive subsidies.	
		a) Lead statewide coordination efforts among IDEA Part B and C and other state service providers. b) Mentor and monitor the network of inclusion coordinators located in the child care resource and referral agencies who develop and provide	

		training.	<p>teachers and measure the success in the Pre-K professional development.</p> <hr/> <p>See Section s 3.1.3 and 3.1.7.</p> <hr/> <p>a) The Interagency Coordinating Council will meet quarterly.</p> <p>b) A minimum of 216 inclusion professional development training opportunities will be provided across the state annually; 80% of the participants will demonstrate increased knowledge based on pre- and post-tests.</p>
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**1.2.4 Will the Lead Agency distribute quality funds to counties or local entities?**

- No, the Lead Agency will manage all quality funds directly
- Yes, the Lead Agency will manage some quality funds directly and distribute a portion to local entities. Estimated amount or percentage to be distributed to localities

Yes, all quality funds will be distributed to local entities

Other.

Describe:

**Per Georgia code, the Lead Agency distributes the quality funds to DECAL, which then administers the funds to enhance the quality, affordability, and accessibility of early care and education services to Georgia’s children and families.**

**1.3 CCDF Program Integrity and Accountability**

Program integrity is defined to include efforts that ensure effective internal controls over the administration of CCDF funds. The Lead Agency is responsible for monitoring programs and services, ensuring compliance with the rules of the program, promulgating rules and regulations to govern the overall administration of the plan and oversee the expenditure of funds by sub-grantees and contractors. (§ 98.11(b)) Accountability measures should address administrative error, which includes unintentional agency error, **as well as address** program violations, both unintentional and intentional, that may or may not result in further action by the Lead Agency, including those cases suspected of and/or prosecuted for fraud.

**1.3.1. Describe the strategies the Lead Agency will utilize to ensure effective internal controls are in place.** The **description** of internal controls may include, but is not limited to a description of processes to ensure sound fiscal management, to identify areas of risk or to establish regular evaluation of control activities.

Describe:

**Strategies to ensure effective internal controls include, but are not limited to:**

- **Case Accuracy Review Plans,**
- **Monthly case accuracy reviews conducted at the county and region level,**
- **Quarterly state CAPS office case accuracy reviews,**
- **Training (staff and child care providers),**
- **Field management meetings,**
- **State fiscal and program audits,**
- **MAXSTAR system reports,**
- **Community assessments,**
- **Message of the day for policy/system improvements (staff and child care providers),**
- **Provider newsletters and public web page communication.**
- **Legal and ethical disclaimers are included on invoices, certificates of care authorization and other documents where payments are reported, invoiced and issued.**

**The program has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Inspector General. The purpose of the agreement is to provide funding and supervision of investigators used exclusively for CAPS client and/or provider investigations.**

**Quarterly meetings are scheduled with the Benefits Recovery Unit to discuss claims, policy, procedures, training and service improvement opportunities.**

**The state's Office of Audits conducts several audits of the child care program per year. The comprehensive reviews include case reviews, payments, the fiscal payment agent and contract reviews.**

**1.3.2. Describe the processes the Lead Agency will use to monitor all sub-recipients.** Lead Agencies that use other governmental or non-governmental sub-recipients to administer the program must have written agreements in place outlining roles and responsibilities for meeting CCDF requirements. (98.11 (a) (3))

**Definition:** A sub-recipient (including a sub-contractor and or sub-grantee) is a non-Federal entity that expends Federal awards (contract or grant) received from another entity to carry out a Federal program, but does not include a vendor nor does it include an individual who is a beneficiary of such a program. OMB Circular A-133 Section 210 provides additional information on the characteristics of a **sub-recipient and vendor** ([http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a133\\_compliance\\_supplement\\_2010](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a133_compliance_supplement_2010)). The description of monitoring may include, but is not limited to, a discussion of written agreements, fiscal management, review of policies and procedures to ensure compliance with CCDF regulations, monitoring/auditing contractors or grantees to ensure that eligible children are served and eligibility documentation is verified, and establishing performance indicators or measures related to improper payments.

Describe:

N/A

**1.3.3. Describe the activities the Lead Agency will have in place to identify program violations and administrative error to ensure program integrity using the chart below.** Program violations may include intentional and unintentional client and/or provider violations as defined by the Lead Agency. Administrative error refers to **areas identified through the Error Rate Review** process (98.100). Check which activities, if any, the Lead Agency has chosen to conduct.

Type of Activity	Identify Program Violations	Identify Administrative Error
Share/match data from other programs (e.g. TANF, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Medicaid))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Share/match data from other databases (e.g., State Directory of New Hires, Social Security Administration, Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Run system reports that flag errors (include types)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review of attendance or billing records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Audit provider records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct quality control or quality assurance reviews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct on-site visits to providers or sub-recipients to review attendance or enrollment documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct supervisory staff reviews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conduct data mining to identify trends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Train staff on policy and/or audits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other. Describe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**For any option the Lead Agency checked in the chart above other than none, please describe:**

N/A

**If the Lead Agency checked none, please describe what measures the Lead Agency has or plans to put in place to address program integrity:**

N/A

**1.3.4. What strategies will the Lead Agency use to investigate and collect improper payments due to program violations or administrative error?** Check and describe in the chart below which strategies, if any, the Lead Agency will use for each of the following areas: Unintentional program violations (UPV), intentional program violations (IPV) and/or fraud, and administrative error as defined in your State/Territory. **The Lead Agency has the flexibility to recover misspent funds as a result of errors. The Lead Agency is required to recover misspent funds as a result of fraud (98.60(i)).**

Strategy	UPV	IPV and/or Fraud	Administrative Error
Require recovery after a minimum dollar amount in improper payment. Identify the minimum dollar amount: \$ 75	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coordinate with and refer to other State/Territory agency (e.g. State/Territory collection agency, law enforcement). Describe:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recover through repayment plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Reduce payments in the subsequent months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recover through State/Territory tax intercepts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recover through other means. Describe:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish a unit to investigate and collect improper payments. Describe composition of unit:			
The unit consists of 3 investigators and 1 supervisor operated under the Office of Inspector General who conduct investigations on clients and child care providers referred to the office, who are suspected of intentional program violations.r	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other. Describe:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**For any option the Lead Agency checked in the chart above other than none, please describe:**

**1.3.5. What type of sanction, if any, will the Lead Agency place on clients and providers to help reduce improper payments due to program violations?**

None

Disqualify client.

If checked, please describe, including a description of the appeal process for clients who are disqualified

**Clients who wish may file for an appeal with the Office of State Administrative Hearings to have their case heard before an administrative judge. The judge will review the program policies and the documentation submitted by the client before rendering a decision**

Disqualify provider.

If checked, please describe, including a description of the appeal process for providers who are disqualified

Prosecute criminally

Other.

Describe.

While current policy does not allow for the disqualification of providers under circumstances related to improper payments, the State is currently in the process of developing policy which will address sanctions and other deterrence for improper payments.

**1.3.6 Based on responses provided from Question 14 in the most recent ACF-402 report, please describe those actions the Lead Agency has taken or plans to take to reduce identified errors in the table below. Territories not required to complete the Error Rate Review should mark**

<b>Activities identified in ACF-402</b>	<b>Cause/Type of Error (if known)</b>	<b>Actions Taken or Planned</b>	<b>Completion Date (Actual or planned) (if known)</b>
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<p>On-going Staff Training Sessions  On-going Case Record Reviews  Automation/System Edits and Reports  Program Policy Review and Streamline</p>		<p>The Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program has instituted refresher training classes for veteran child care staff and managers. These targeted trainings focus on issues found before and during the case record review, including specialized training sessions on subjects such as income calculations, continuing training in child care eligibility determinations, and ongoing authorizations. Training will continue to be held throughout the state during the current contract.</p> <p>The CAPS program will also continue to work with the Education and Training Section of the Agency to ensure that on-going training for new child care case managers and supervisors emphasize issues found during the current and on-going case audits as well as client eligibility determinations/authorizations and claims.</p> <p>The CAPS program staff has also revised the case accuracy review tool used by county supervisors and state-level field program staff to review cases. The tool was revised to reflect eligibility errors as defined by the ACF throughout the federal Record Review.</p>	
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#### **1.4 Consultation in the Development of the CCDF Plan**

Lead Agencies are required to *consult* with appropriate agencies in the development of its CCDF Plan (§98.12, §98.14(a),(b), §98.16(d)).

**Definition:** *Consultation* involves the meeting with or otherwise obtaining input from an appropriate agency in the development of the State or Territory CCDF Plan. At a minimum, Lead Agencies must consult with representatives of general purpose local governments. (§§98.12(b), 98.14(a)(1))

**1.4.1 Identify and describe in the table below who the Lead Agency consulted with in the development of the CCDF Plan (658D(b)(2), §§98.12(b), 98.14(b)).**

Agency/Entity	Describe how the Lead Agency consulted with this Agency/entity in developing the CCDF Plan
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Representatives of general purpose local government (required)</b></p> <p>This may include, but is not limited to: representatives from counties and municipalities, local human service agencies, local education representatives (e.g., school districts), or local public health agencies.</p>	<p>Collaborative child care partners and agencies, child care providers, local county DFCS office representatives statewide, and DFCS regional staff were given preliminary notice of the development of the draft of the State Plan.</p> <p>The draft of the 2012-2013 State Plan is posted on the CAPS website for easy access. A link was posted on the CAPS website for users to submit comments directly to the Lead Agency. A link was also placed on the DHS Facebook page.</p> <p>Input and recommendations received from DECAL, DFCS agencies, and partners outside of government will be incorporated into the draft of the plan when feasible.</p>
<p><b>For the remaining agencies, check and describe (optional) any which the Lead Agency has chosen to consult with in the development of its CCDF Plan.</b></p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>State/Territory agency responsible for public education</p> <p>This may include, but is not limited to, State/Territory pre-kindergarten programs (if applicable), programs serving school-age children (including 21st Century Community Learning Centers), or higher education.</p>	<p>DHS requested pertinent information and holds quarterly meetings with DECAL, which administers Georgias Pre-K Program.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>State/Territory agency responsible for programs for children with special needs</p> <p>This may include, but is not limited to: State/Territory early intervention programs authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part C for infants and toddlers and Section 619 for preschool), or other State/Territory agencies that support children with special needs</p>	<p>DECAL administers Georgias Pre-K Program which employs an inclusion coordinator to work with children, families, and teachers to ensure that children with special needs receive appropriate Pre-K services. DECAL also employs a statewide inclusion coordinator to work with children, families, and child care providers to ensure that children from birth to age three receive appropriate preschool services. Both inclusion coordinators work with other state and local agencies to ensure services are accessible for children ages birth to 18 who have special needs.</p>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State/Territory agency responsible for licensing (if separate from the Lead Agency)	<b>DHS requested pertinent information, agreed on goals, and holds quarterly progress meetings with DECAL.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State/Territory agency with the Head Start Collaboration grant	<b>DECAL houses the Head Start Collaboration Office. DHS requested pertinent information and holds quarterly progress meetings with DECAL.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statewide Advisory Council authorized by the Head Start Act	<b>DECAL, the lead agency for the State Advisory Council, has worked closely on the CCDF Plan with DHS, the lead agency for the Plan.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Federal, State, local, Tribal (if applicable), and/or private agencies providing early childhood and school-age/youth-serving developmental services	
<input type="checkbox"/> State/Territory agency responsible for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	
<input type="checkbox"/> State/Territory agency responsible for implementing the Maternal and Early Childhood Home Visitation programs grant	
<input type="checkbox"/> State/Territory agency responsible for public health (including the agency responsible for immunizations and programs that promote children's emotional and mental health)	
<input type="checkbox"/> State/Territory agency responsible for child welfare	
<input type="checkbox"/> State/Territory liaison for military child care programs or other military child care representatives	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State/Territory agency responsible for employment services/workforce development	<b>DHS requested pertinent information, assessed and evaluated goals, and holds progress meetings with TANF.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State/Territory agency responsible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	<b>DHS requested pertinent information. assessed and evaluated goals, and holds progress meetings with TANF.</b>

<input type="checkbox"/>	Indian Tribes/Tribal Organizations  <input type="checkbox"/> N/A: No such entities exist within the boundaries of the State	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private agencies/entities including national initiatives that the Lead Agency is participating in such as BUILD, Strengthening Families, Mott Statewide After-school Networks, Ready by 21	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provider groups, associations or labor organizations	<b>The Parent/Provider Advisory Council was given preliminary notice of the development of the draft of the State Plan.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent groups or organizations	<b>The Parent/Provider Advisory Council was given preliminary notice of the development of the draft of the State Plan.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local community organizations (child care resource and referral, Red Cross)	<b>Quality Care for Children, a child care resource and referral agency was given preliminary notice of the development of the draft of the State Plan.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	

**1.4.2. Describe the Statewide/Territory-wide public hearing process held to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the provision of child care services under this Plan.** (658D(b)(1)(C), §§98.14(C)). At a minimum, the description should include:

a) Date(s) of notice of public hearing: [04/11/2011](#)

**Reminder** - Must be at least 20 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

b) How was the public notified about the public hearing? [A public notice was sent to newspapers around the state to announce public hearings that would be held regarding Georgias 2012-2013 CCDF State Plan. The notice included the web address that listed all the dates and sites of the hearings.](#)

c) Date(s) of public hearing(s): [05/07/2011](#)

**Reminder** - Must be no earlier than 9 months before effective date of Plan (October 1, 2011).

d) Hearing site(s) [5/07 Duluth, GA, 6/14 Savannah, GA, 6/20 Atlanta, GA, 6/21 Macon, GA, 6/23 Albany, GA](#)

e) How was the content of the Plan made available to the public in advance of the public hearing(s)? [Letters and e-mails were sent to collaborative partners, government agencies, advocacy](#)

groups, etc. announcing the hearings. Attached to the e-mails was an electronic version of the draft of the state plan. The hearing notice and dates were also posted on the Childcare and Parent Services website (<http://www.dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/caps>) and on the DHS Facebook and Twitter pages.

f) How will the information provided by the public be taken into consideration in the provision of child care services under this Plan? After the conclusion of the public hearing, comments and recommendations are recorded and incorporated into the draft of the plan when feasible.

**1.4.3. Describe any strategies used by the Lead Agency to increase public consultation on the Plan or access to the public hearing.** For example, translating the public hearing notice into multiple languages, using a variety of sites or technology (e.g., video) for the public hearing, holding the hearing at times to accommodate parent and provider work schedules.

**1.4.3. Describe:**

Public hearing notices were translated in Spanish, and interpreters were available at each hearing. Public hearings were held in the evenings and weekends to accommodate parent and provider work schedules. Individuals could also submit comments electronically directly to the Lead Agency by utilizing a link posted on the Childcare and Parent Services website (<http://www.dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/caps>) and on the DHS Facebook and Twitter pages.

## **1.5. Coordination Activities to Support the Implementation of CCDF Services**

Lead Agencies are required to *coordinate* with other Federal, State, local, Tribal (if applicable) and private agencies providing child care and early childhood development services

**Definition** - *Coordination* involves child care and early childhood and school-age development services efforts to work across multiple entities, both public and private (such as in connection with a State Early Childhood Comprehensive System (SECCS) grant or the State Advisory Council funded under the Head Start Act of 2007). (658D(b)(1)(D), §§98.12(a), 98.14(a)(1))

**1.5.1. Identify and describe in the table below with whom the Lead Agency coordinates in the delivery of child care and early childhood and school-age services (§98.14(a)(1)).**

<b>Agency/Entity (check all that apply)</b>	<b>Describe how the Lead Agency will coordinate with this Agency/entity in delivering child care and early childhood services</b>	<b>Describe the goals or results you are expecting from the coordination</b>
<p>Representatives of general purpose local government <b>(required)</b></p> <p>This may include, but is not limited to:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> representatives from counties and municipalities, local human service agencies, local education representatives (e.g., school districts), or local public health agencies.</p>	<p><b>The Lead Agency partners with Georgia's Pre-K Program (housed at DECAL) to increase wrap-around care for Pre-K children eligible for CCDF. The two departments are coordinating efforts to increase the number of slots in wrap-around programs that are of higher quality. Georgia's Pre-K Program is offered in public schools as well as private child care learning centers.</b></p>	<p>Examples might include increased supply of full-day/full-year services, aligned eligibility policies, blended funding, or access to more training and technical assistance resources shared across agencies.</p> <p><b>Increased number of CCDF-eligible children who are served in wrap-around care.</b></p>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p>State/Territory agency responsible for public education <b>(required)</b> This may include, but is not limited to, State/Territory pre-kindergarten programs (if applicable), programs serving school-age children (including 21st Century Community Learning Centers), or higher education.</p>	<p>See above.</p>	<p>See above</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p>Other Federal, State, local, Tribal (if applicable), and/or private agencies providing early childhood and school-age/youth-serving developmental services <b>(required)</b></p>	<p><b>The DHS Afterschool Services program partners with community-based organizations and schools throughout Georgia by funding afterschool and summer programs offering services to youth, ages 6 – 19 years.</b></p> <p><b>The DHS Afterschool Services program, in collaboration with the state Child Care Unit, established a referral process through local county DFCS offices that provides eligible families access to participating afterschool and summer programs.</b></p>	<p><b>This collaboration is expected to strengthen Georgia families and expand services available to school age youth.</b></p>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p>State/Territory agency responsible for public health <b>(required)</b></p> <p>This may include, but is not limited to, the agency responsible for immunizations and programs that promote children's emotional and mental health</p>	<p>The Lead Agency and the Department of Community Health are members of the State Advisory Council whose mission is to coordinate services to children, including immunizations and children's social and emotional health</p>	<p>One of the State Advisory Council's goals is to develop and implement a comprehensive plan with a road map for improving Georgia's early childhood system. The plan will address child health.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p>State/Territory agency responsible for employment services / workforce development <b>(required)</b></p>	<p>Coordination between the Office of Family Independence (OFI) Unit responsible for TANF/Employment Services and the Childcare and Parent Services program is ongoing.</p> <p>The OFI Child Care Unit and TANF Unit work together to provide TANF customers access to seamless child care services to support state approved work, education, and training activities.</p> <p>TANF customers who need child care to comply with their personal work plans receive priority when funds are limited.</p>	<p>This collaboration is expected to yield affordable child care services for TANF customers who need child care to meet the TANF work participation requirements.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p>State/Territory agency responsible for providing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) <b>(required)</b></p>	<p>See above for response</p>	<p>See above for response</p>

<p>Indian Tribes/Tribal Organizations (required)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>N/A: No such entities exist within the boundaries of the State</p>		
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**For the remaining agencies, check and describe (optional) any with which the Lead Agency has chosen to coordinate early childhood and school-age service delivery**

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>State/Territory agency responsible for licensing (if separate from the Lead Agency)</p>	<p>DHS and DECAL regularly communicate about licensing requirements, noncompliant programs and efforts to improve health and safety of child care programs.</p>	<p>Increased percentage of child care providers who are compliant with state rules and coordinate service provisions. Improved communication between DHS and DECAL.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>State/Territory agency with the Head Start Collaboration grant</p>	<p>DHS and DECAL regularly communicate about Head Start requirements, updates, and policy issues to improve coordinated services for children in Head Start programs.</p>	<p>Improved and aligned eligibility policies, blended funding, and resources shared across agencies maximize the number of children receiving services.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Statewide Advisory Council authorized by the Head Start Act</p>	<p>Representatives from DHS serve on the State Advisory Council to help ensure coordination of services.</p>	<p>The Council's work is informed by and aligned with the work of DHS.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>State/Territory agency responsible for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)</p>	<p>DHS coordinates with DECAL, the state agency that administers CACFP, to allow informal providers (kith, kin and neighbor care) to participate in CACFP.</p>	<p>Nutritious meals are available to children in subsidized care with informal providers.</p>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>State/Territory agency responsible for programs for children with special needs</p> <p>This may include, but is not limited to: State/Territory early intervention programs authorized under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part C for infants and toddlers and Section 619 for preschool), or other State/Territory agencies that support children with special needs</p>	<p><b>Babies Can't Wait (BCW) is Georgia's statewide interagency service delivery system for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. BCW is established by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which guarantees all eligible children, regardless of their disability, access to services that will enhance their development.</b></p>	<p><b>DHS partners with BCW to ensure that families have access to the services needed to enhance their child's development and that training is available to ensure that professionals who work with children and families have up-to-date information.</b></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>State/Territory agency responsible for implementing the Maternal and Early Childhood Home Visitation programs grant</p>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>State/Territory agency responsible for child welfare</p>		

<input type="checkbox"/>	State/Territory liaison for military child care programs or other military child care representatives		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private agencies/entities including national initiatives that the Lead Agency is participating in such as BUILD, Strengthening Families, Mott Statewide After-school Networks, Ready by 21		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local community organizations (child care resource and referral, Red Cross)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provider groups, associations or labor organizations		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent groups or organizations		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other		

**1.5.2. Does the State/Territory have a formal early childhood and/or school-age coordination plan?** Lead Agencies are not required to have an early childhood nor a school-age coordination plan, but the State/Territory may have such plans for other purposes, including fulfilling requirements of other programs.

Yes. If yes,

a)

Provide the name of the entity responsible for the coordination plan(s):

c)

Indicate whether this entity also operates as the State Advisory Council (as authorized under the Head Start Act of 2007):

Yes

No

d)

Provide a web address for the plan(s), if available:

No

**1.5.3. Does the State/Territory have a designated entity(ies) responsible for coordination across early childhood and school-age programs?** (658D(b)(1)(D), §98.14(a)(1)) Check which entity(ies), if any, the State/Territory has chosen to designate.

State/Territory-wide early childhood and/or school-age cabinet/advisory council/task force/commission.

If yes, describe entity, age groups and the role of the Lead Agency

State Advisory Council (as described under the Head Start Act of 2007).

If yes, describe entity, age groups and the role of the Lead Agency

**The Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (Council) was created by executive order of Governor Sonny Perdue on September 30, 2009. Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning was designated to be the lead/fiscal agency for the Council.**

**The children impacted by the work of the Council range in age from birth to age five. The legislation specifies certain members to serve on the Council to make recommendations on a defined set of topics. Currently, a representative from the Lead Agency serves on the Council.**

**The Georgia State Advisory Council has identified six projects to help meet its objectives: 1) developing a comprehensive plan with a road map for improving Georgia's early childhood system; 2) developing a plan for improving staff quality and higher education capacity; 3) improving the quality of program oversight and monitoring; 4) improving follow-up from health screening; 5) developing resources to empower parents; and 6) unifying and coordinating early childhood data. DECAL is the lead agency on all projects except the health screening project, which is lead by the Department of Public Health. Georgia intends to apply for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant address the comprehensive plan and to meet the state's comprehensive, coordinated and ambitious reform agenda and goals for early care and education. Governor Nathan Deal has designated DECAL as the lead agency.**

Local Coordination/Council

If yes, describe entity, age groups and the role of the Lead Agency

Other

Describe

None

**1.5.4 Does the Lead Agency conduct or plan to conduct activities to encourage public-private partnerships that promote private sector involvement in meeting child care needs? (§98.16(d))**

Yes .

If yes, **describe** these activities or planned activities, including the tangible results expected from the public-private partnership:

Georgia continues to pursue creative approaches to involve the private sector in meeting child care needs. The state Child Care Unit established an advisory panel comprised of parents, child care providers, resource and referral staff, and child care staff from the state and county level. This collaboration allows parents and providers to participate with a diverse group in decision making regarding strategies to increase the availability, accessibility, and affordability of child care in Georgia prior to implementation.

In addition, DECAL promotes public-private sector collaboration on child care issues and encourages partnerships by:

Funding the statewide network of Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies. The CCR&Rs ([www.gaccrra.org](http://www.gaccrra.org)) expand partnerships through their outreach efforts in the communities where they are located. These efforts include work site exhibits and presentations to educate and provide resources to help meet the child care needs of a company's employees. CCR&Rs schedule community advisory committee meetings where representatives from their region's corporate community provide advice, learn about resources, and offer other resources to support their communities.

Partnering and contracting with private child care learning centers to provide Pre-K services. Georgia's Pre-K Program is offered free to all four-year-old children regardless of parental income. A variety of organizations provide Pre-K services, among them private non-profit and for-profit child care learning centers, public and private elementary schools, Head Start sites, military bases, and postsecondary vocational-technical institutions.

Encouraging private sector collaboration and support for the implementation of the new voluntary quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). DECAL is completing the design and implementing a QRIS for early care and education within the next two years. The department has, in conjunction with state and national stakeholders and experts, been exploring various models for a QRIS since 2006. This effort to enhance quality is based, in part, on research conducted by the FPG Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill which

revealed: (1) on average, center-based child care across Georgia was of “low” to “medium” quality; (2) the quality of care for infants and toddlers was lower than the quality of care for preschoolers; and (3) over three quarters of family home-based child care providers were rated as low quality. DECAL is engaging the business leaders and foundations to promote and support the QRIS.

No

## 1.6. Child Care Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

It is recommended, but not required, that each Lead Agency develop a plan to address preparedness, response, and recovery efforts specific to child care services and programs. Plans should cover the following areas: 1) planning for continuation of services to CCDF families; 2) coordination with other State/Territory agencies and key partners; 3) emergency preparedness regulatory requirements for child care providers; 4) provision of temporary child care services after a disaster; and 5) rebuilding child care after a disaster. For further guidance on developing Child Care Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans see the Information Memorandum (CCDF-ACF-IM-2011-XX) located on the Office of Child Care website at:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/law/state\\_topic\\_emergency.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/law/state_topic_emergency.htm)

### **1.6.1. Indicate which of the following best describes the current status of your efforts in this area. Check only ONE.**

**Planning.** Indicate whether steps are under way to develop a plan. If so, describe the time frames for completion and/or implementation, the steps anticipated and how the plan will be coordinated with other emergency planning efforts within the State/Territory.

**Developed.** A plan has been developed as of **[insert date]:** and put into operation as of **[insert date]:** , if available. Provide a web address for this plan, if available:

**Other.**  
**Describe:**

PLANNING:

Although not the lead agency, DECAL licenses child care learning centers and group day care homes and registers family day care homes. Each center and home is required by state rules to have and implement a written plan for handling emergencies, including but not limited to, severe weather, loss of electrical power, or loss of water.

The Lead Agency is collaborating with other state agencies, private, non-profit, and disaster preparedness groups to formulate a plan to ensure that child care and early childhood programs are included in the planning, response, and recovery efforts.

**1.6.2. Indicate which of the core elements identified in the Information Memorandum are or will be covered in the Lead Agency child care emergency preparedness and response plan.** Check which elements, if any, the Lead Agency includes in the plan.

- Planning for continuation of services to CCDF families
- Coordination with other State/Territory agencies and key partners
- Emergency preparedness regulatory requirements for child care providers
- Provision of temporary child care services after a disaster
- Rebuilding child care facilities and infrastructure after a disaster
- None