Building a #2gen Approach to State Policy:Georgia's Story
From PACTT to Practice

Kristin Bernhard

Deputy Commissioner for System Reform
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Kristin.Bernhard@decal.ga.gov

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning

BRIGHT from the START
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Child Care Licensing:

License, regulate, and improve the quality of 5,000 licensed child care centers & family providers and nearly 10,000 license-exempt child care programs

Universal State-Funded Pre-K:
80,000 children
4 year olds

Targeted Child Care Subsidy Grants:
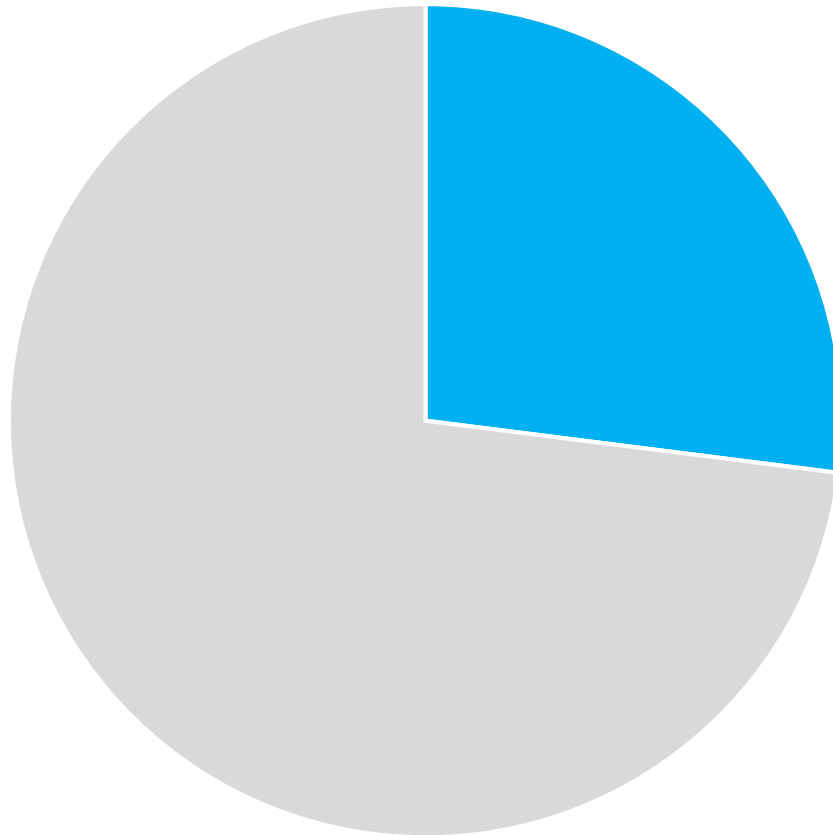1,500 children 6 weeks to 4 years

Targeted Child Care Subsidy Scholarships:
47,500 children
6 weeks to 13 years

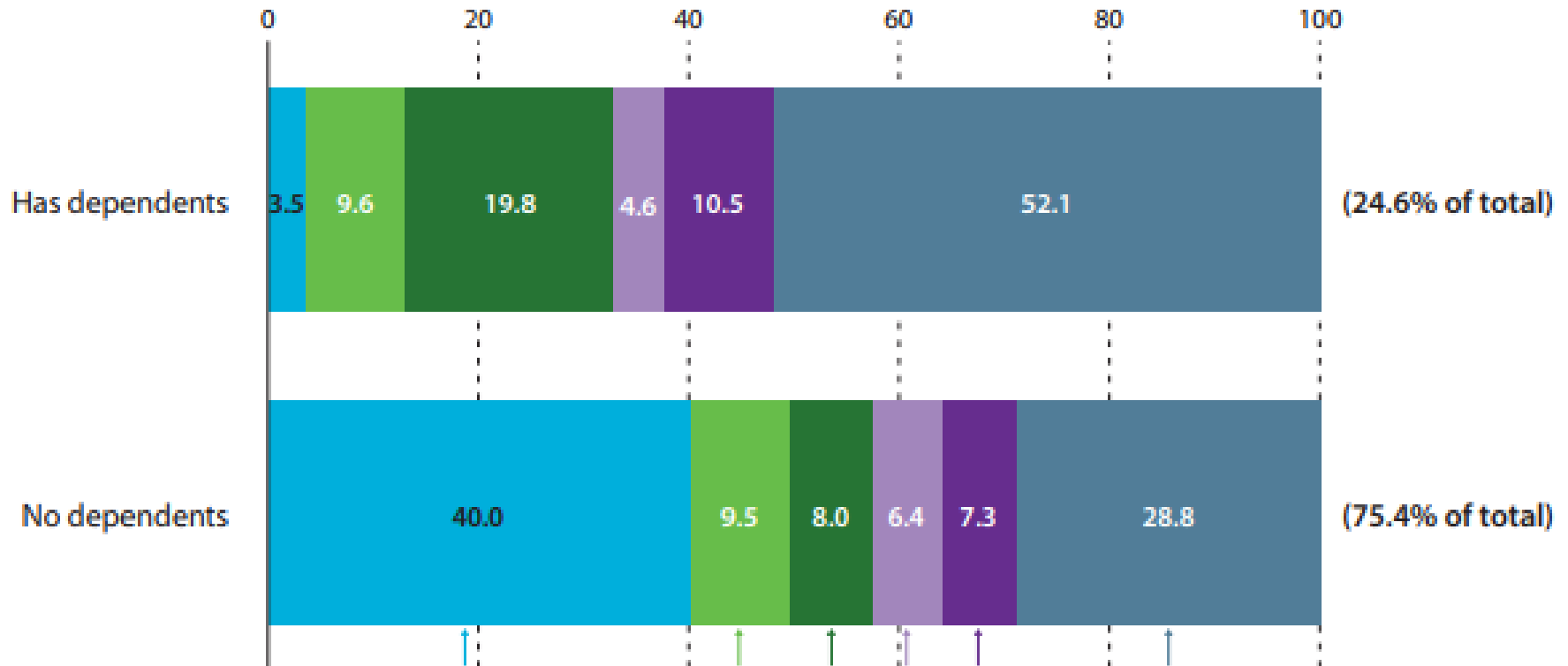# The evidence we most often use to illustrate the value of high quality early learning…

In 2015-16, 27% of all students in Georgia technical colleges were females with dependents.

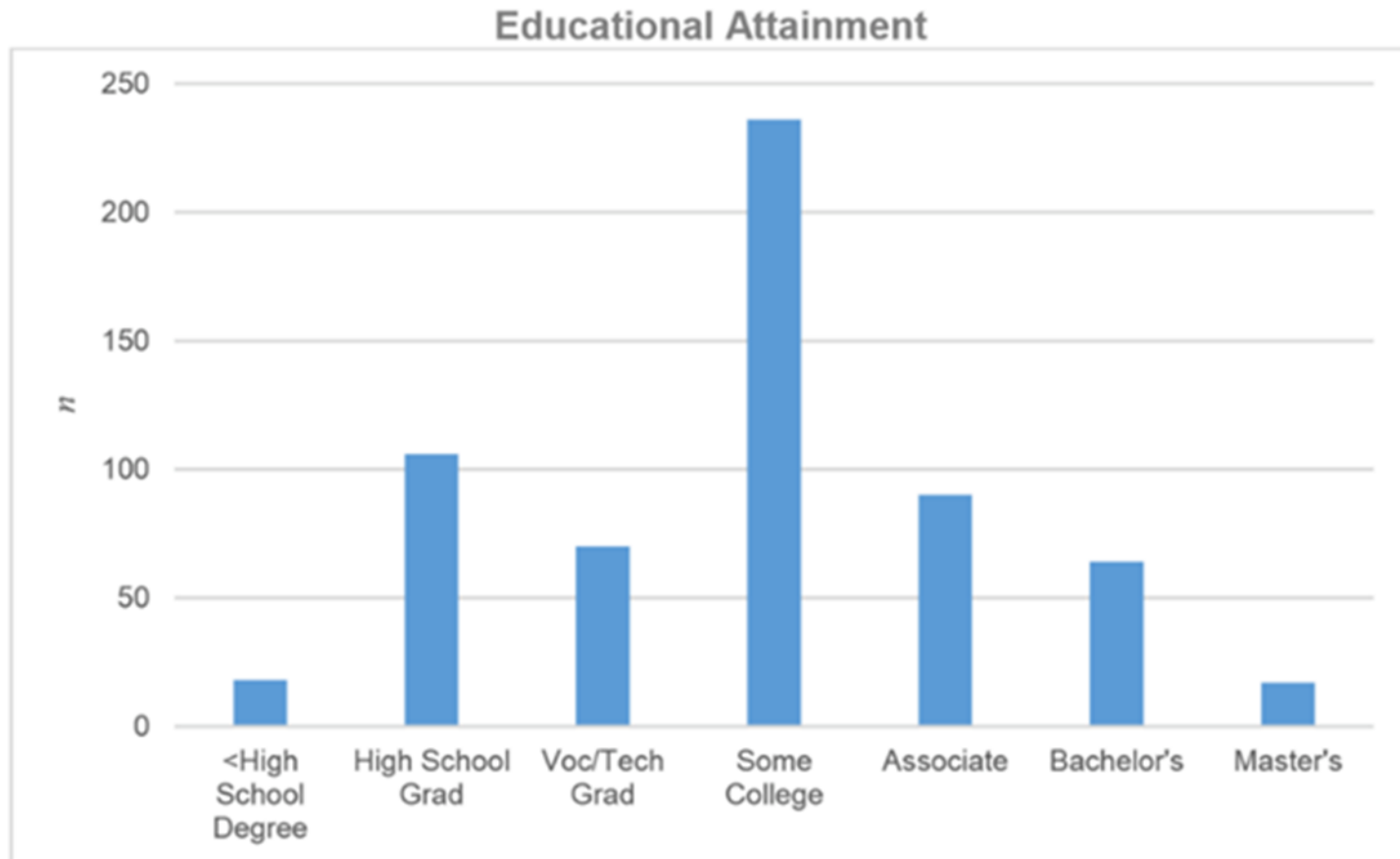# Nationally, more than 50% of female student parents drop out with no credential.

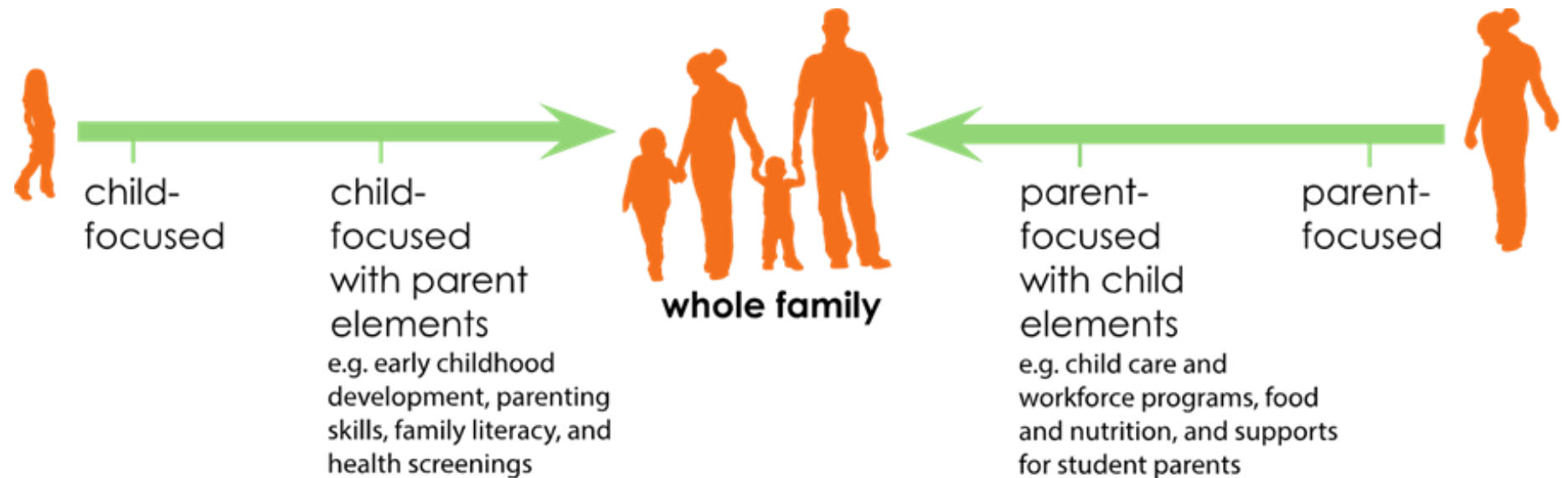## Fewer than 1/3 attained any credential at all six years after matriculation.

Many parents who receive child care assistance in Georgia have some college experience but no degree.

Educational Attainment

A two-generation approach helps us each achieve our goals:

child-focused

child-focused with parent elements
e.g. early childhood development, parenting skills, family literacy, and health screenings

whole family

parent-focused with child elements
e.g. child care and workforce programs, food and nutrition, and supports for student parents

parent-focused

Connect parents currently pursuing workforce training and postsecondary education with child care and family supports.

child-
focused

child-
focused
with parent
elements
e.g. early childhood
development, parenting
skills, family literacy, and
health screenings

whole family

parent-
focused
with child
elements
e.g. child care and
workforce programs, food
and nutrition, and supports
for student parents
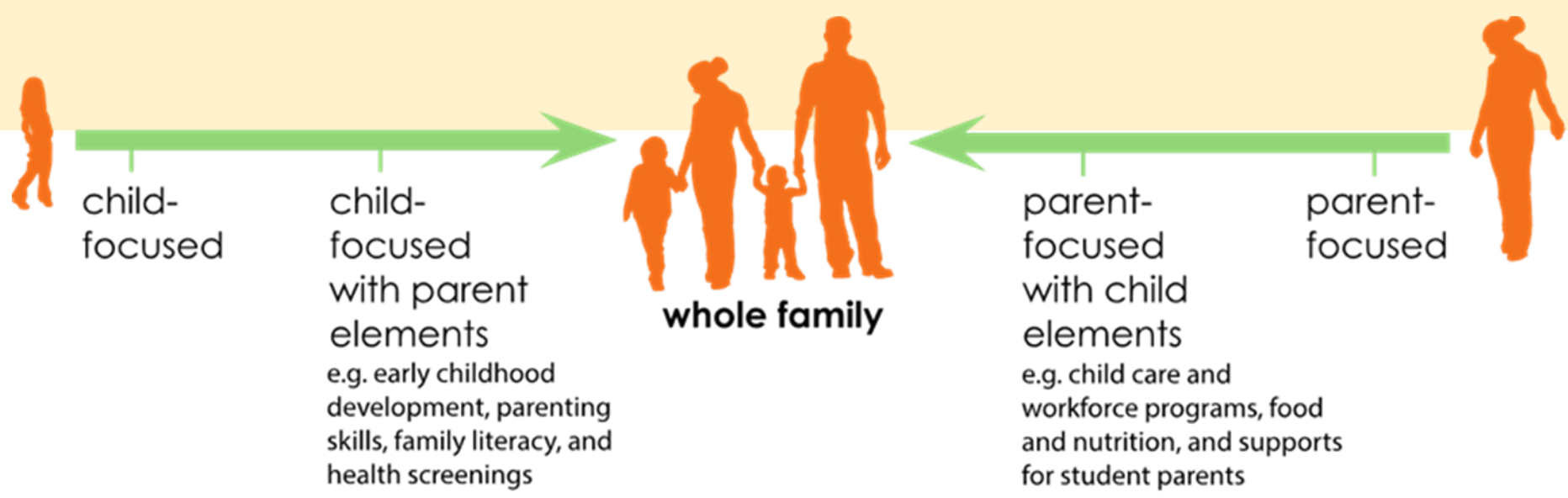
parent-
focused

Connect parents of young children currently in the early learning system with workforce training and postsecondary education.

child-focused

child-focused with parent elements
e.g. early childhood development, parenting skills, family literacy, and health screenings

whole family

parent-focused with child elements
e.g. child care and workforce programs, food and nutrition, and supports for student parents

parent-focused
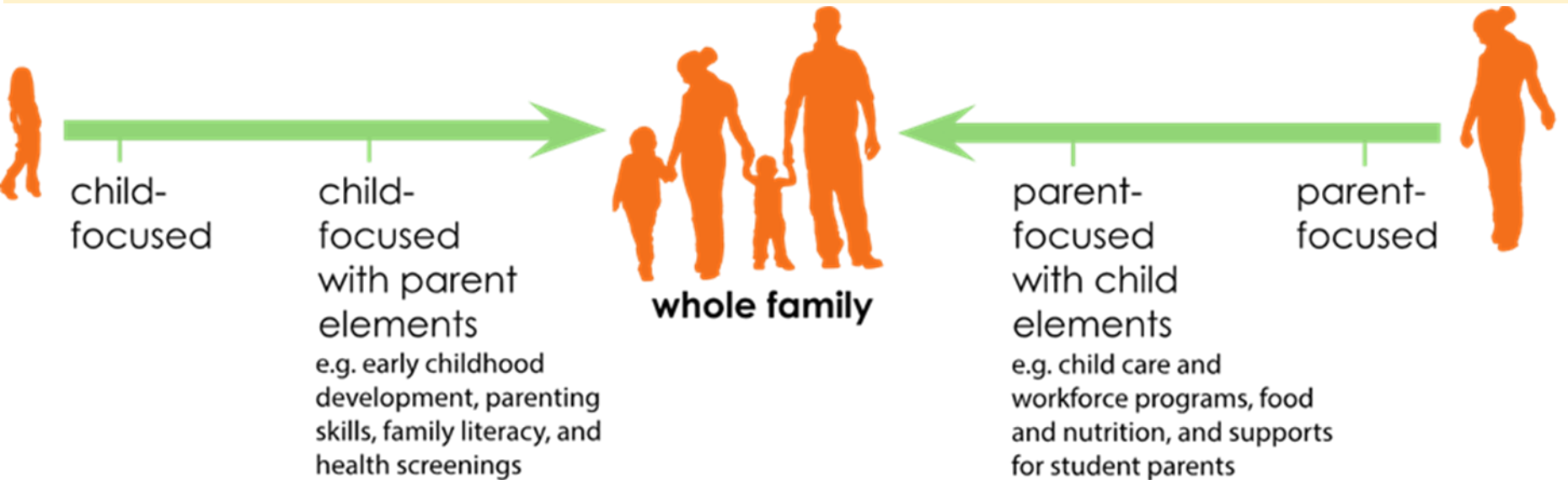
Georgia's Parents and Children Thriving Together (PACTT) Grant

- Award from the National Governor's Association & the Center for Law & Social Policy.

- One of five states selected in late 2016 to promote two-generation strategies in state policy.

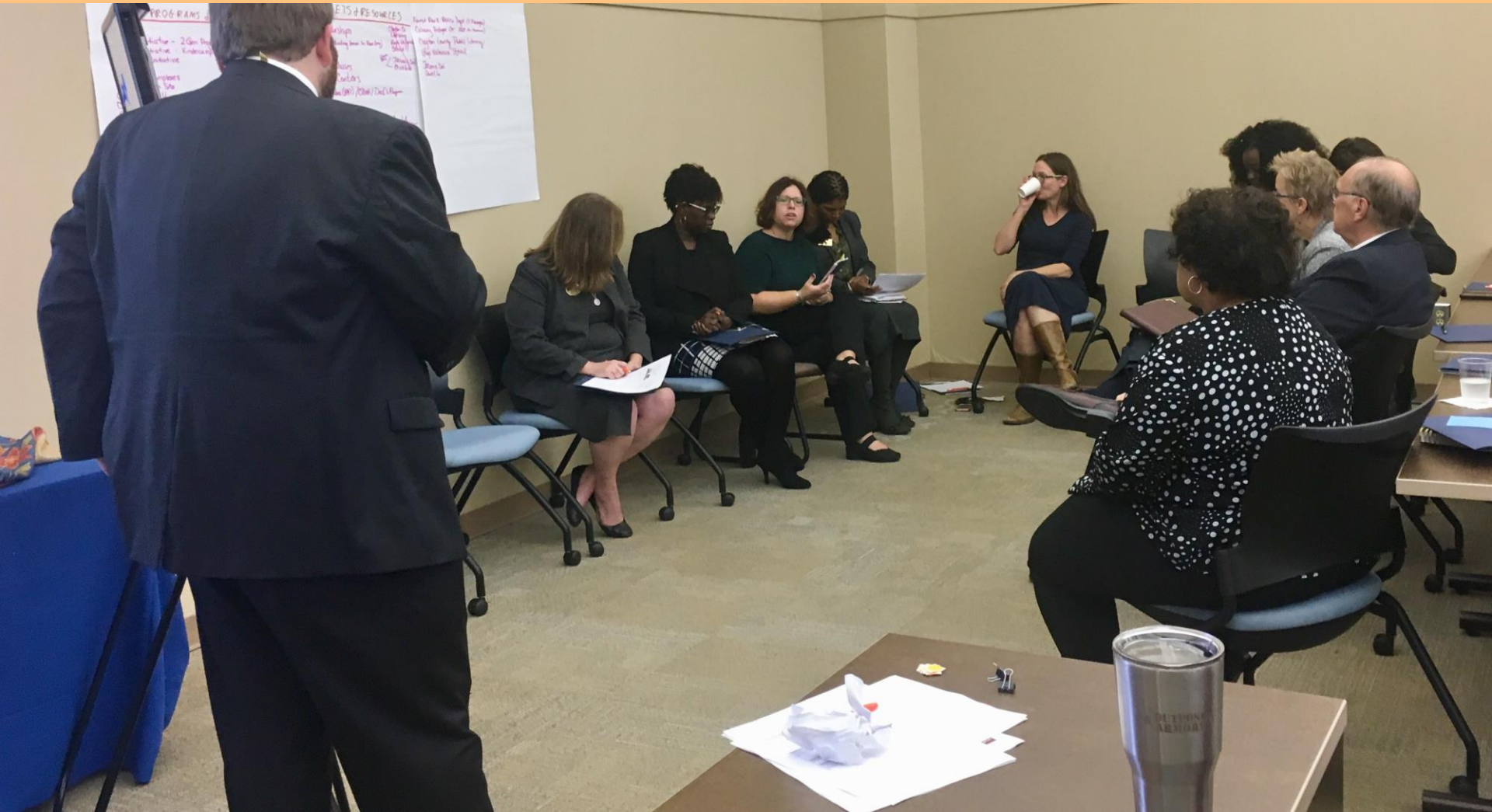- DECAL is the lead agency of this two-year, $90,000 investment in Georgia.

1. Develop state level coordination teams.
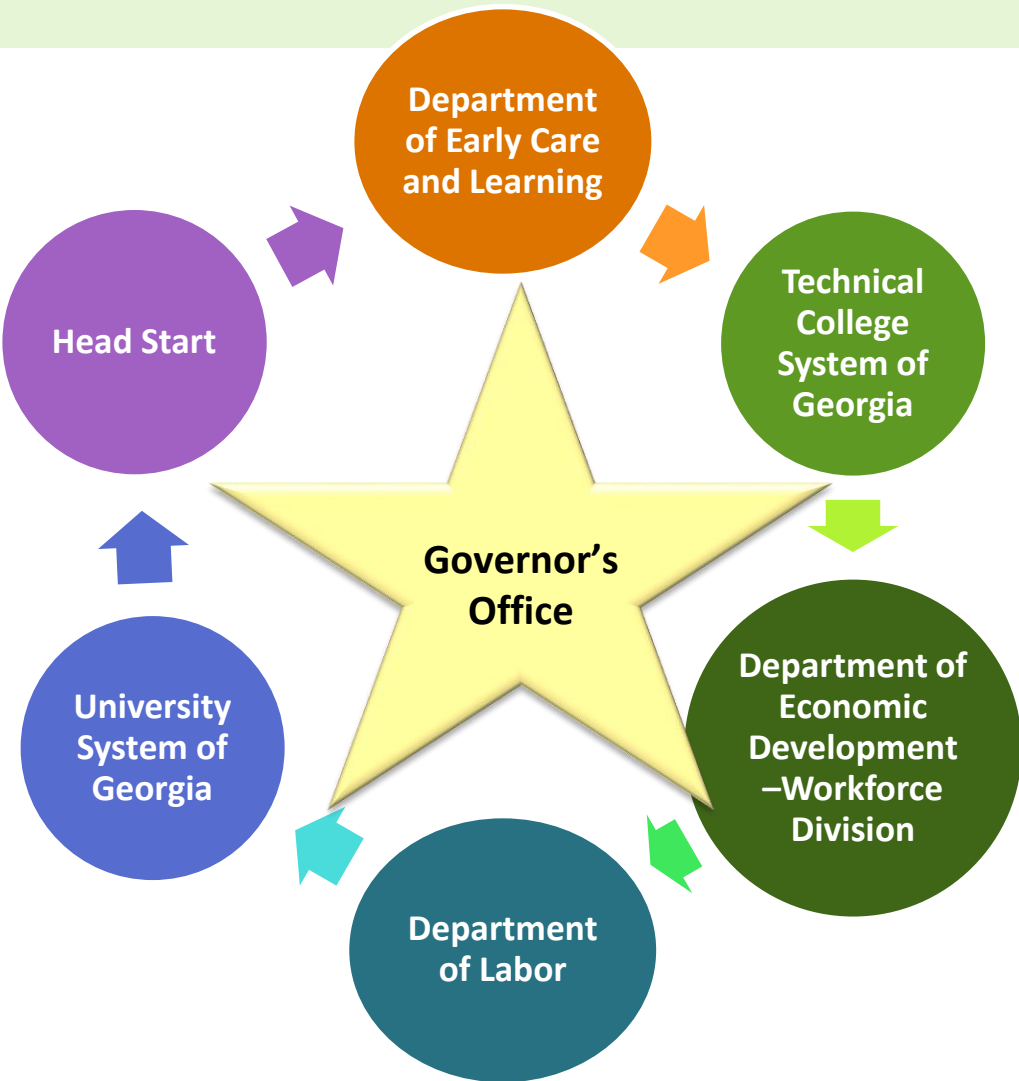
2. Deliver professional development on two-generation strategies.

3. Award grants to communities to develop or expand promising two-gen practices.

4. Develop an evaluation and research agenda for two-gen work in Georgia.

5. Change policy to embed two-gen practices into the way we serve families in Georgia.

Neighbor to Neighbor:

- How would you use to describe the state policy environment for student parents in your state?

- What is the biggest state/system policy barrier for student parents in your state?

- How have *you* engaged state policy leaders on this issue? How *are* state policy leaders engaged on this issue?

- What messaging techniques or "angles" have resonated best with state policy leaders in your state?

TwoGen
Georgia

Parents and Children Thriving Together

Clarke County (Athens, Georgia)

Our federal regulations had always required us to do this, now we're just developing well worn paths to actually make it happen.

Clarke County (Athens, Georgia)

- Partners: Athens Technical College, Family Connection Partnership, & Clarke County Early Learning Center
- Survey student parents & faculty and staff of college on barriers and commonly requested resources
- Hire student parents to lead focus groups, develop resources, lead peer support groups and guide implementation
- Train staff at Early Learning Center on local access to GEDs, "free" postsecondary programs of study

Bibb County (Macon, Georgia)

We had spent considerable funding developing 2-1-1 in our community, but our technical college staff had never heard of it.

Bibb County (Macon, Georgia)

- Partners: Central Georgia Technical College & United Way of Central Georgia
- Survey student parents & faculty and staff of college on barriers and commonly requested resources
- Modify United Way 2-1-1 resources to meet the needs identified, including adding video guides
- Train student facing staff on 2-1-1 and build out resource space at Central Georgia Tech

Clayton County (Atlanta, Georgia)

*Never, ever
cancel an event.*

Clayton County

- Partners: Clayton State University, Atlanta Technical College, Quality Care for Children, and Little Ones Early Learning Center
- Develop a "roving" resource center *staffed with real people* to share resources at higher education sites and neighboring child care programs

Neighbor to Neighbor:

- How has your work addressed building social capital for student parents?

- How has your work encouraged parents *to enter* or re-enter post-secondary?

- What creative funding opportunities have you found to support your work?