Building a #2gen Approach to State Policy: Georgia’s Story

*From PACTT to Practice*

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

Source: NCES 2009.
Students matriculated in 2003-04 and their progress was observed in June 2009.
Many parents who receive child care assistance in Georgia have some college experience but no degree.

Source: GEEARS, Summer 2016, online survey distributed to all CAPS recipients, completed by 602 CAPS recipients
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**
  - Parent-focused with child elements
  - e.g. child care and workforce programs, food and nutrition, and supports for student parents
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
Connect parents of young children currently in the early learning system with workforce training and postsecondary education.
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.

- Department of Early Care and Learning
- Technical College System of Georgia
- Department of Economic Development – Workforce Division
- University System of Georgia
- Head Start
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?
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
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
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?