



Black Child Development Institute-Atlanta Receives Two-Generation Innovation Grant from DECAL Funding Helps Communities Develop Programs to Promote Family Economic Security

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 15, 2020 – ATLANTA - The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has announced an award of a Two-Generation (Two-Gen) Innovation Grant to the Black Child Development Institute (BCDI) – Atlanta. Two-Gen grants are awarded in two categories: Capacity-Building Grants and Implementation Grants. The grant of \$10,000 will be used to implement BCDI-Atlanta’s new ***Powerful Families*** program. The funding is designed to help community partnerships pilot or expand programs that connect parents, who are themselves students, with high-quality early learning for their young children. This is the third year DECAL has offered Two-Gen grants.

BCDI-Atlanta’s *Powerful Families* program will work to improve connections for low income families in the city of Atlanta and Fulton County. It will focus on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both children and their families together, to create improved family economic stability. To better serve these families, BCDI-Atlanta will work to expand the educational success of young children, to increase the knowledge of families on adult credential attainment and to assist in obtaining meaningful employment. BCDI–Atlanta will partner with other agencies to implement the program and to initiate a more collaborative systematic two-generational approach for children and families. Sessions will be virtual and in-person. BCDI–Atlanta also will provide professional development to early learning center staff to help improve program quality and child outcomes. Coaches and peer advocates will be used to ensure center follow up and to provide on-going technical assistance.

According to BCDI-Atlanta President Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis, “Our *Powerful Families* program will enable family advocates to serve as peer models, coaches, and to support parents in their journey to understand, cope and negotiate the various service systems.” An advisory group will be created to identify current two-generational programs in Fulton County.

ABOUT BCDI–ATLANTA

Established in 1981, Black Child Development Institute (BCDI)-Atlanta coordinates community programs and initiatives throughout the state of Georgia, supporting the six focus areas of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)—early care and education, literacy, family engagement, child welfare, public policy, and health and wellness. Learn more about BCDI-Atlanta at www.bcdiatlanta.org and on social media @bcdiatl.

ABOUT DECAL

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families.

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