



# Georgia's Approach for Monitoring Exempt Programs

Kristie Lewis  
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services

# Efforts to Strengthen Exemptions Requirements – March 2012

- New rules became effective that strengthened exemption requirements
  - Required all exempt programs in Georgia to reapply under new rules and at anytime program had changes
  - Required a valid and current email address for program
  - Required program to obtain and keep records on children
  - Required program to maintain daily attendance records
  - Required parents to sign a notice that they were aware the program was exempt from licensure
  - Required program to post exemption notice and exemption approval letter from DECAL
  - Required program to post notice IF the program had no liability insurance

# Current Exempt Programs Eligible for Subsidy Funding

- Government owned and operated\*
  - Before and after care in public schools
  - Summer programs and full day camps
- Nursery school, playschool & kindergarten, etc. for ages 2-6 years for no more than 4 hours per day
- Day camps for ages 5 years & older
- Program for ages 5 years & older operated by national membership non-profit organization (e.g., Boys & Girls Clubs)

# Georgia's Previous Monitoring Efforts and Compliance Data

# Piloted Monitoring Approach – Summer 2013 and Summer 2014

- Identified a sub-set of experienced licensing consultants located across the state to conduct on-site monitoring visits
- Contacted programs before visiting to determine if program was still operating
- Sent letter to all programs in May and June explaining process and reason for visits
- Conducted webinar with consultants to outline procedures for monitoring
- Provided memo for consultants to give to exempt programs during site visit

# Exempt Summer Day Camp Visit Project – July 2014

- Potential pool of sites to visit = 83 providers
- 67 sites visited at the following types of providers:
  - Government owned and operated = 30 sites
  - Day Camps (5 years and older) = 33 sites
  - Private Non-profit (5 years and older) = 4 sites
- Programs visited had a total of 1-151 active subsidy certificates
- 17 child care licensing consultants visited the sites between July 3-25, 2014 using an abbreviated Health and Safety Checklist
  - Internal tool developed and used to monitor informal care providers

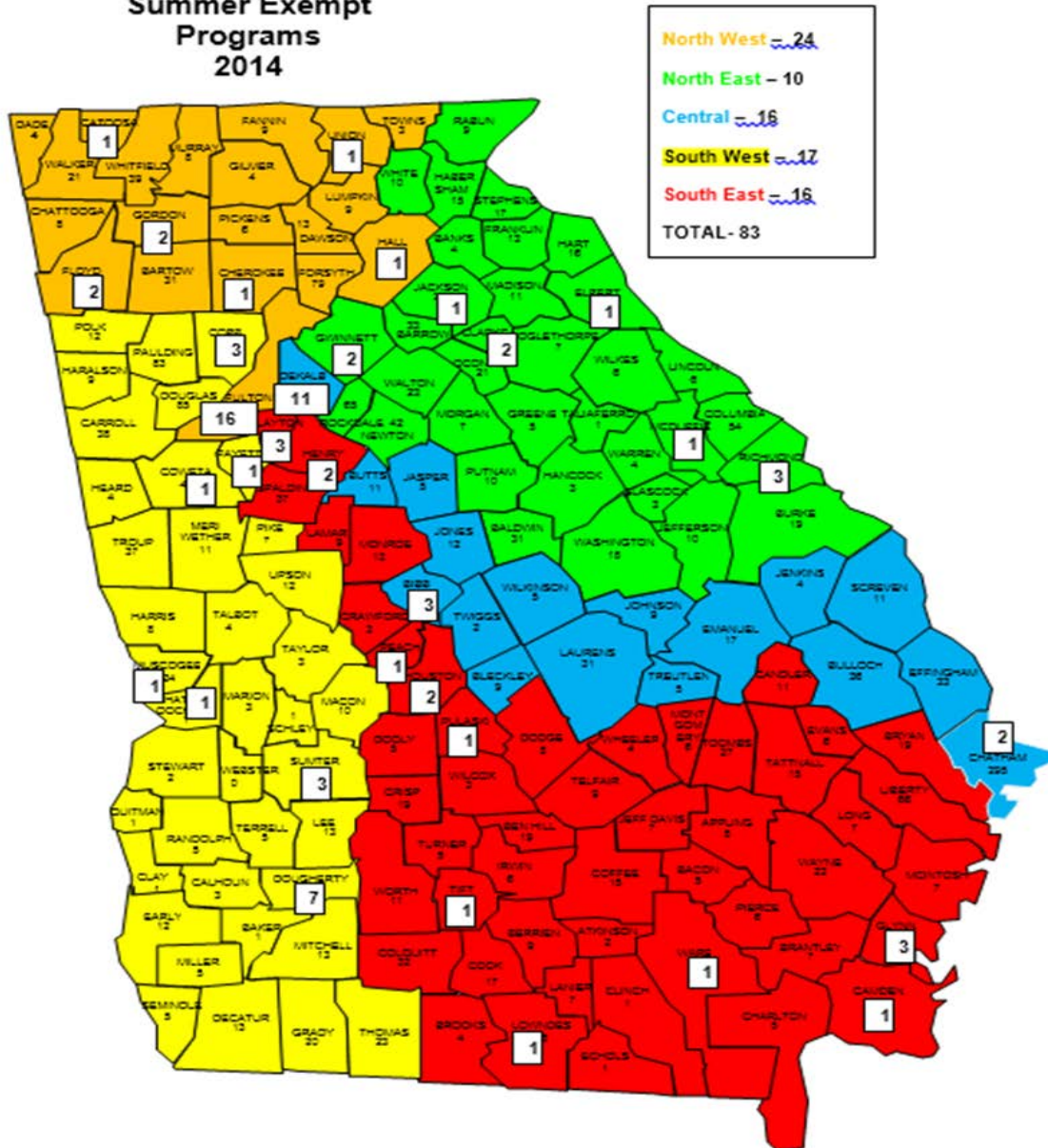
# Health and Safety Checklist Tool



## BASIC HEALTH & SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR EXEMPT SUMMER PROGRAMS

<b>Program Name:</b>					<b>Visit Date:</b>
<b>Staff: Child Ratios</b>			<b>Address:</b>		
Room	Age Group	# Staff	# Children	Met State Ratios (Y or N)	Room Activities/Notes
<b>Total # Children this date:</b>					
<b>Indicators</b>				<b>Observations/Comments/Notes</b>	
<b><u>591-1-1-.09 Criminal Records Check</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were there current CRC's on file for staff? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> </ul> If yes, please describe type -----> If no, explain----->					
<b><u>591-1-1-.32(6) Supervision</u></b> <input type="checkbox"/> NA (no children present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were staff members physically present in the area and able to supervise all children? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li>Was observed supervision adequate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</li> </ul> If no, explain----->					

State of Georgia  
Bright from the Start-  
Summer Exempt  
Programs  
2014



# Exempt Summer Day Camp Visit Project 2014 – Potential Site map



# Summer Exempt Programs Subsidy Certificates Data (Summer 2014)

	Data as of 6/15/14	Data as of 7/15/14	Data as of 8/15/14
Number of active CAPS certificates	Number of Exempt Programs	Number of Exempt Programs	Number of Exempt Programs
1-10 certificates	57 sites	66 sites	26 sites
11-25 certificates	2 sites	4 sites	1 site
26-50 certificates	5 sites	5 sites	N/A
51+ certificates (actual #)	1 site (118)	2 sites (57/151)	1 site (52)
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>65 sites</b>	<b>77 sites</b>	<b>28 sites</b>

# Exempt Summer Day Camp Visit Project 2014

## Findings Summary *(based on 67 visits)*

Indicator	Yes (Met)	No (Not Met)	Not observed/ N/A	Not reported
Were staff:child ratios met?	62	5	-	-
Were CRC's on file for staff?	44	19	-	4
Was adequate supervision maintained?	55	7	5 (children not present during visit)	-
Was playground enclosed?	23	33	11 (no playground on premises)	-
Was playground free from hazards?	45	8	11 (no playground on premises)	3
Were facility premises free from hazards?	54	13	-	-

# Exempt Summer Day Camp Visit Project 2014

## Findings Summary *(based on 67 visits)*

- Transportation provided by 60 of 67 sites visited
  - Improper restraints reported at 3 sites (of those able to be observed)
- Pool on premises at 31 of 67 sites
  - Not adequately fenced or secured at 3 of 31 sites
- Discipline observed at 40 of 67 sites; inappropriate discipline reported at only 2 sites
- Local approvals:
  - 13 sites did not have a certificate of occupancy
  - 11 sites did not have fire marshal approval
  - 19 sites did not have zoning approval

# Opportunities

- Monitoring will help DECAL acquire a better understanding of programs and services
  - Use Georgia's current core rules to monitor exempt programs in an abbreviated way
  - Use current licensing database to develop a specific template for exempt monitoring
  - Use past monitoring project to develop a system of enforcement that is applicable to the abbreviated monitoring of exempt programs
- Potentially develop licensing standards applicable to exempt programs in the future

# Other Considerations

- Determine which exemptions would continue to receive subsidy and other benefits
- Build on work of previous exemption task force recommendations
- Determine the impact of exemptions on Georgia economy
- Include programs in QRIS as an alternative to licensing – major public awareness campaign launching in 2016
- Engage parents in the process (e.g., focus groups)

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



# For more information, contact...



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE  
East Tower, Suite 670  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
(404)657-5562  
[www.dec.state.ga.us](http://www.dec.state.ga.us)

Kristie Lewis  
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services  
404-463-4309 or [kristie.lewis@dec.state.ga.us](mailto:kristie.lewis@dec.state.ga.us)

Follow us on Twitter at: [www.twitter.com/gadepyearlycare](https://twitter.com/gadepyearlycare) or  
Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/brightfromthestart](https://www.facebook.com/brightfromthestart)