



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Suzanne Wooley, 470-816-6340

Pilot Program Launched to Improve Health Access for Children

ATLANTA – Voices for Georgia’s Children (Voices), in partnership with Quality Care for Children (QCC), have launched an early childhood pilot program to improve health outcomes for Georgia’s children.

The pilot connects caregivers of children living in families with low income to services and supports which address Social Determinants of Health.

The pilot, “HealthyUs,” will include three early childhood education (ECE) centers:

- Discovery Point (Snellville, GA)
- Sunshine Childcare Learning Center (Snellville, GA)
- Pre-K Preparatory Learning Academy (Gainesville, GA)

Participating families will connect with a Health and Family Support Specialist (housed by QCC) for the next year. During this time, they will receive assistance in enrolling in qualifying food, medical, and cash benefits programs; nutrition coaching and cooking lessons; early childhood parenting skills. They will also receive assistance navigating the health care system. Additionally, professional development opportunities and training for ECE providers and staff will be offered.

“Many early care and education programs in Georgia serve a population very similar to that of Early Head Start and Head Start, both in income and demographics,” said Lesley Kelley, M.P.P., Voices’ Senior Policy Analyst and Lead Voices’ Researcher for the pilot program. “However, because Early Head Start and Head Start are only able to serve a portion of eligible families, there are many who are left out. HealthyUs is an opportunity to connect these families with support that can help to improve outcomes for Georgia’s children and their families.”

“We know families that live in under-resourced communities often experience barriers to high-quality early learning and care, preventative healthcare, adequate housing, and nutrition, adding to parental stress and impacting mental health,” said Ellyn Cochran, Chief Executive Officer and President of Quality Care for Children. “These are factors that can put a child’s health at risk and have lasting consequences for our youngest learners in Georgia. We are excited to work with Voices and directly with families through the HealthyUs pilot to help them access resources and services that will support overall family well-being.”

At the conclusion of the pilot program, Voices will evaluate whether the pilot had its intended impact to connect families with services and supports to increase child and family health and well-being and outline recommendations on sustainability and expansion. Measures will include program enrollment, contact with families, and progress towards goals set by the family with assistance from the Support Specialist.

For more: <https://georgiavoices.org/voices-leads-healthyus-pilot-program/>

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About Quality Care for Children

For more than forty years, Quality Care for Children (QCC) has remained Georgia’s leader in equipping parents and child care providers with the resources they need to receive and provide high quality, affordable child care. The organization provides on-site consulting, training, business resources, and nutrition programs to child care programs and supports parents with a free referral service and tuition assistance for low-income families.



Voices for Georgia’s Children is the state’s only comprehensive policy and advocacy organization committed to improving the lives of Georgia’s children. Through research and analysis, public education, convening and engagement with state decision-makers, Voices is striving to ensure ALL children thrive. Our work is framed in a holistic “whole child” perspective that allows us to identify how different policies impact children and to propose solutions that benefit children on multiple levels.