



## Georgia Afterschool Investment Council: ARRA Efforts

### ARRA tracking and research

- Active participation on Afterschool Alliance, National Women's Law Center, Center for Law and Social Policy conference calls
- Monitor federal and local guidance, state agency actions, and press regarding relevant funding streams
- Consistent communication with education advocacy organizations on school budgets and ARRA dollars
- GAIC becomes go-to organization for information on CCDBG and education ARRA dollars

### Advise legislators and agency officials

- Sent letter to Governor and all relevant agency heads with recommendations on use of stimulus dollars
- Developed fact sheets for GAIC's CCDBG and Title I recommendations (provided to legislators and agency officials and fellow advocacy organizations)
- Specific request for use of CCDBG quality dollars for Georgia Afterschool Institute
- Active participation on Georgia Birth to Five Coalition – GAIC presence and knowledge maintains inclusion of school-age information and recommendations in all materials and requests

### Provide information to the field

- Created page on website dedicated to ARRA
- Developed "How-to" guide for OST programs to learn about and access Title I dollars
- Held conference call for providers on stimulus funding streams with focus on CCDBG subsidies and Title I dollars.
- Regular email communication to listserv on funding streams (CCDBG, Title I, SFSF, WIA) beginning in February
- Provide technical assistance for programs seeking to understand ARRA in Georgia as requested

### Key allies:

- Georgia School-Age Care Association; Voices for Georgia's Children; Georgia Budget and Policy Institute; Georgia Birth to Five Coalition (joint recommendations; sharing information; collaborate on strategy); Georgia School Superintendents Association (sharing information)
- Legislative budget staff (trying to make sense of all the different funding streams and Georgia's share)

### Wins:

- Language in state budget directing stimulus dollars first be spent on waiting list before being used for a new time-limited program.
- 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees in final year made eligible to apply for an additional year (through regular 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding; not stimulus)
- GAIC receives stimulus funds for summer research experience for students & teachers in Georgia (through NIH stimulus funding; in collaboration with science, higher-ed and K-12 partners)



## Georgia Afterschool Investment Council: ARRA Efforts (cont.)

### Challenges:

- Translating technical guidance into usable information for afterschool programs
- Funding decisions being made at the local level means we can provide guidance but programs are somewhat “on their own”
- Many programs do not have existing relationships with schools so it is a big step to talk about ARRA funding
- State/local agency personnel and superintendents feel overwhelmed (and thus less likely to do anything “outside the box”)
- State agencies in Georgia have not provided opportunities for public input or discussion – in fact, have been told they can’t talk about it until Governor signs off
- “Funding cliff” mentality among agency officials

### Opportunities:

- Helped GAIC uncover challenges programs face and consider new services (e.g. conference calls on relevant topics such as how to build relationships with schools; providing advocacy 101 training at provider network meetings)
- Helped build GAIC relationship with CCDBG administrator
- GAIC viewed as knowledgeable organization on stimulus dollars
- GAIC delved into new issue area with WIA...hope to deepen relationship with Department of Labor
- Providing an excuse for programs to start talking with their schools