

Physician's Guide to Georgia Department Public Health Programs for Children

Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) offers many programs to serve infants, children, & adolescents. The following is a brief guide to understanding the various programs and services offered in Georgia. Visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/women-and-children> for more information. Please view this guide on line at www.gaaap.org/phg.com

Program Name	Target Population	Program Overview	Financial or Other Eligibility Requirements
Children 1st	Birth - 5 yrs.	Early identification of at-risk children & linkage to public & community-based programs & services. Serves as <i>Single Point of Entry</i> to Babies Can't Wait, Children's Medical Services, 1 st Care, & Early Hearing Detection & Intervention	None
Babies Can't Wait	Birth – 3 yrs.	Early intervention program that offers a variety of coordinated services for infants and toddlers with special needs, from birth to three years of age, and their families.	Diagnosed physical or behavioral/mental condition (e.g., such as blindness, autism, spina bifida) that is known to result in a developmental delay OR confirmed diagnosed developmental delay by a qualified team of early intervention professionals
Child Occupant Safety Project	Birth – 8 yrs.	Provides child safety seats, education on proper installation use, and transportation evaluations for child with special health considerations.	Ga. residents eligible or enrolled in WIC, Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids®, or other state-approved financial eligibility program.
Children's Medical Services (CMS)	Birth – 21 yrs.	Facilitates access to comprehensive and community-based resources & support systems for children & youth with complex medical needs. Serves as the payor of last resort for medical expenses such as diagnostic testing, medications & supplies, durable medical equipment, genetic testing & counseling. Provides support for youth transitioning from pediatric to adult health care.	Household Income limited <247% of Federal Poverty Level; limited to designated chronic medical conditions; contact program for additional information.
Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI)	All Newborns	All newborns must receive an initial hearing screening in both ears; those who fail this screening are to be linked to follow-up screening by 3 months of age. Audiological evaluation is to be provided to those newborns who fail their follow-up screening by 6 months of age. As indicated, these infants are to be linked to diagnostic evaluation & care coordination up to age 5. Suspected & confirmed hearing impairment is a notifiable disease in Georgia. Consider targeted screening for congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) of all newborns who fail their initial hearing screening.	Georgia residents through age 5 suspected or confirmed as deaf or hard of hearing.
Evidence Based Home Visiting	Pregnant women & families with children birth to 5 at-risk	Strengths-based, family-centered support for pregnant women and at-risk families with children birth to 5 entry offers linkages and resources to support healthy growth and development.	None
First Steps Georgia	Primary caregivers with young children	Expectant mothers and primary caregivers with young children receive scheduled screening and referrals to services and resources as needed.	None
Georgia Autism Initiative	Birth – 21 yrs.	Statewide coordination & delivery of services to improve early identification, screening, diagnosis, intervention, and transition planning for infants and youth with autism spectrum disorders and their families.	None
Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions & Services (GRITS)	All	Designed to collect & maintain accurate, complete, and current vaccination records to promote effective and cost-efficient disease prevention and control. All vaccines administered are to be reported in GRITS.	None

Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention	3 months to 6 yrs.	Seeks to eliminate childhood lead poisoning. Blood lead level test are required for children enrolled in Medicaid & PeachCare for Kids® at 1 & 2 years of age; also between ages of 36 and 72 months if not previously tested.	None
Hearing and Vision Screening Program	All children	All children entering Ga public school systems are to have a completed Form 3300 . Hearing test are to be performed on children ages 3 – 6 years of age and at 8 & 10 years with additional screening once between ages 11-14, 15-17, and 18-21 years. Vision screening is to be performed on children ages 3 – 6 years, 8, 10, 12, & 15 years of age. A risk assessment for hearing and vision concerns at all other ages.	None
Georgia Newborn Screening Program	Newborns	Early detection of disorders detectable at birth, including critical congenital heart disease, endocrine conditions, hearing loss, hemoglobin disorders, immunodeficiencies, and metabolic disorders.	None
Notifiable Diseases Epidemiology Section	All	All Georgia physicians, laboratories, & other health care providers are required by law to report patients with the specific conditions.	None
Oral Health Section	School Age Children and Adolescents	Promotes prevention, early detection, screening, treatment, & control of oral disease.	<185% Federal Poverty Level or those qualified for free/reduced lunch
Safe Infant Sleep	All	Georgia Safe to Sleep Campaign offers evidence-based education and training on SUID risk reduction.	None
Vaccines for Children (VFC)	Birth through 18 yrs.	Vaccines available to children who are enrolled in Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids, uninsured, underinsured or are Alaskan natives or American Indian.	Children who are enrolled in Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids, uninsured, underinsured or are Alaskan natives or American Indian.
Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)	Pregnant, post-partum, nursing mothers, infants & children up to age 5	Special supplemental nutrition program that provides nutrition assessment and education, breastfeeding support, monthly food vouchers and refers applicants to available health and social services.	Georgia residents with income < 185% of Federal Poverty Level or enrolled in Medicaid & at risk for nutritional deficiencies

Additional Information on Public Health Programs & Services

Maternal and Child Health Conditions Database

This database can be used to help determine if your child/patient may be eligible for services provided by Children's Medical Services (CMS), Babies Can't Wait (BCW) and/or 1st Care. Please call your local office for information and questions.

Georgia Maternal Child Health Coordinator Locator

This database is intended as a resource for families to locate public health programs and services in their area serving the health needs of women and children.