Welcome

We believe that all people should have “a good life,” including a home, friends, relationships, and jobs. The information presented here can help support a good life. It is intended to be a resource for family members, individuals with disabilities, friends, and allies as they think about different ways to support the people they care about to fully participate in community life. Please use this information as a tool toward deciding which services may be of most use to you.

No service can fully replace the efforts of friends, family, and community allies. The people who know you best are the ones who will be able to figure out what you need to thrive.

Many thanks go to the people who reviewed this information for accuracy at the time of publication. Feedback is welcome to help keep this information relevant and up-to-date. Please send your comments to resourceadvocacy@thegao.org.
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MEDICAID

Medicaid is a needs-based program funded by the federal and state government. Medicaid pays for some medical care for people who cannot afford it. If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you also receive Medicaid. You apply for SSI at the Social Security office. Call 800-772-1213 to find your closest Social Security office. In Georgia, you can apply for Medicaid at your local Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) office, by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or in person. To find the phone number of your local DFCS office call (800) 869-1150. You can also find the contact information for your local DFCS office and much more information about Medicaid in Georgia at http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov.

If the Department of Medical Assistance (DMA) denies your enrollment in the Medicaid program, denies your coverage for a particular service, or makes another decision with which you disagree, you have the right to appeal the decision and request a hearing. You must request a hearing at your local DFCS office.

For general information and questions about Medicaid, call DMA at 1-800-282-4536 or 404-656-4479.

EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)

The purpose of EPSDT is to ensure that all children who are eligible for Medicaid receive full and preventive health care. Among other things, EPSDT is intended to provide for early identification and treatment of conditions that may slow or harm the growth and development of children. To learn more about the services provided through EPSDT, visit the website of the Children’s Freedom Initiative at http://www.georgiacfi.org and view the “Resources” section.

HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS) WAIVERS

Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive certain Medicaid rules. These waivers can allow states to pay for home and community-based services (HCBS) instead of services in institutions.

HCBS waivers give states the flexibility to develop alternatives to placing people in hospitals, nursing facilities or Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/ID). The HCBS waiver program recognizes that many people at risk of being in these facilities can live in their own homes and communities. Living at home helps people to preserve their independence and ties to family and friends.

In 1999, the Supreme Court decided a case, Olmstead v. L.C., in which the Supreme Court affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. An “integrated setting” is typically found in the local community where the individual with a disability interacts with individuals who do not have disabilities (other than those who are providing services), to the same extent as all other citizens. The Olmstead decision challenges federal, state, and local governments to develop more opportunities for individuals with disabilities through accessible systems of cost effective, community-based services.
Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and its implementing regulations, require states to administer their services, programs, and activities “in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.” Medicaid can be an important resource to assist states in fulfilling their obligations under the ADA. HCBS waiver programs are one option for states to use to provide community-based long-term care services and supports.

Georgia has several HCBS waivers and demonstration projects that are approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Although different waiver programs offer different services, each program helps people to remain or return to their community from hospitals, nursing facilities, psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF) or ICF/IDs. Each program requires that people be eligible for Medicaid.

The Georgia Department of Community Health's Division of Medical Assistance will serve only the number of people for whom the legislature has allocated funds. There are nearly always people on the waiting lists for the programs.
GEORGIA HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED MEDICAID WAIVERS

1. Community Based Alternatives for Youth (CBAY)

Community Based Alternatives for Youth (CBAY) provides home and community-based waiver services to individuals who would require PRTF level of care unless they receive similar support services at home.

Who is eligible?

CBAY provides alternatives to treatment provided in a PRTF. CBAY serves children and youth, birth through age 21, with serious emotional and behavioral issues, and who live in, or at risk of moving into, a PRTF. Children and young adults receive services as close to their natural home setting as possible. CBAY aims to reduce the length of stay in out-of-home placements and increase the number of youth receiving community-based services transitioned or diverted from these facilities.

Youth that are eligible to participate in the CBAY waiver program must meet level of care criteria developed by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). DBHDD requires that all individuals seeking PRTF services be assessed using the Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII). The CASII assesses a child on the following dimensions:

- risk of harm
- functional status
- recovery environment
- resiliency and treatment history

- acceptance and engagement
- co-existence of disorders across four areas
  - (developmental disabilities, substance abuse, medical, and psychiatric)

Services that may be provided:

- Care management – intended to identify, plan, budget, document, coordinate, and review the delivery and outcome of wraparound plan and services
- Community guide – intended to develop community relationships to promote self-directed services and supports
- Community transition services – intended to assist family with transition from institution to community setting. These supports may include security deposits, essential household furnishings, utility deposits, driver’s license, driver’s training or vehicle registration subject to a $1500.00 per year limit
- Consultative clinical and therapeutic services – services that are not covered by the state plan and are necessary to improve independence such as crisis counseling and stabilization, assessment, development of a home treatment/support plan, compensation
- Customized goods and services – supplies such as tutoring, parenting skills, structured recreation, mentors, and behavior aids subject to a $2000 per year limit
- Family training and supports – resources designed to promote skills for coping and managing mental illness through natural supports and community partnerships
- Respite – designed to give parents rest and relief, while their children are in a safe and supportive environment on a short-term basis
Supportive employment – intensive, on-going supports to prepare, secure, and maintain a job in a regular work setting
Transportation – intended to assist waiver participants to participate in community services, activities, and organizations offered to all other children and youth. Does not include transit provided through Medicaid’s nonemergency transportation network. This transportation is subject to a $1500 per year limit
Wraparound services – provided by unskilled workers and designed to support community involvement and increase independence through increased social skills, problem-solving skills, coping skills, and life skills

How do I apply?

For further details about how to apply for the waiver
E-mail: CBAYQuestions@dhr.state.ga.us
Call: 404-657-2103
Write to the program at: Community Based Alternatives for Youth Program
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Floor 23
Atlanta, GA 30303

2. Community Care Services Program (CCSP)

CCSP provides home and community-based services to people who have a functional impairment or who have a disability. The program helps people remain in their own home, the home of a caregiver, or in other community settings as long as possible.

Who is eligible?

CCSP serves individuals (older adults and individuals with disabilities) who have a physical, functional impairment that puts them at risk for moving into a nursing facility. They must meet an intermediate level of care for a nursing facility, based on a medical, cognitive, and/or functional impairment.

Services that may be provided:

- Adult day health care – daytime care and supervision in an adult day center
- Emergency response system – in-home electronic support system providing communication with a medical control center
- Home delivered meals – prepared outside the home and delivered to the recipient of CCSP services
- Home delivered services – skilled nursing services, medical social services, home health aide assistance, personal care, and help with meals
- Out-of-home respite care – out-of-home overnight respite care in an approved facility with 24-hour supervision
- Personal support services – assistance with meal preparation, hygiene and nutrition, light housekeeping, and shopping
How do I apply?

The coordinating agencies are the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). The AAA coordinates services and information, including CCSP, for Georgians who are elderly. The AAA serves as the program’s entry point. AAA determines both eligibility of the person and the type of services needed.

Listed below is the contact information for the Area Agency on Aging planning and service areas. These areas are divided by county services.

**Atlanta Regional Commission**
Counties Served: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Rockdale, and Henry
CCSP Information: 404-463-3244
Area Agency on Aging: 404-463-3100

**Central Savannah River**
Counties Served: Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, and Wilkes
CCSP Information: 888-922-4464 or 706-210-2018
Area Agency on Aging: 706-210-2018

**Coastal**
Counties Served: Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, and McIntosh
CCSP Information: 800-580-6860 (Brunswick); 888-698-2984 (Savannah)
Area Agency on Aging: 912-264-7363 (Brunswick)

**Legacy Link, Inc. (Georgia Mountains)**
Counties Served: Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White
CCSP Information: 800-845-5465 or 770-538-2650
Area Agency on Aging: 770-538-2650

**Heart of Georgia /Altamaha**
Counties Served: Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Evans, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wheeler, and Wilcox
CCSP Information: 888-367-9913 or 912-367-3648
Area Agency on Aging: 912-367-3648

**Lower Chattahoochee**
Counties Served: Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor and Webster
CCSP Information: 800-615-4379 or 706-256-2900
Area Agency on Aging: 706-256-2900
**Middle Georgia**  
Counties Served: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs and Wilkinson  
CCSP Information: 478-751-6466  
Area Agency on Aging: 888-548-1456 or 478-751-6160

**Northeast Georgia**  
Counties Served: Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton  
CCSP Information: 800-474-7540 or 706-583-2546  
Area Agency on Aging: 706-369-5650

**Northwest Georgia**  
Counties Served: Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, and Whitfield  
CCSP Information: 800-759-2963 or 706-802-5506  
Area Agency on Aging: 706-295-6485

**South /Southeast Georgia**  
Counties Served: Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware  
CCSP Information: 912-287-5888 or 888-732-4464  
Area Agency on Aging: 912-285-6097

**Southern Crescent**  
Counties Served: Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup, and Upson  
CCSP Information: 706-675-6721 or 770-854-6026  
Area Agency on Aging: 888-854-5652; 706-675-6721 (Franklin); 770-854-6026 (Atlanta)

**Southwest Georgia**  
Counties Served: Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, and Worth  
CCSP Information: 229-432-1124  
Area Agency on Aging: 800-282-6612 or 229-432-1124

### 3. Independent Care Waiver Services Program (ICWP)

The ICWP is a home and community based waiver intended to help adults with physical disabilities who receive Medicaid to live in their own homes or in the community instead of a hospital or nursing facility. ICWP services may also be available for persons with traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

**Who is eligible?**

ICWP is for people who receive Medicaid who have severe physical disabilities, are between the ages of 21 and 64 when they apply, and meet the published criteria:
Individuals, families, and the case manager work together to develop a plan of care to assess the individual's present situation, strengths, needs, goals, services required, available providers, and projected budget. Funds must be available in the state budget for a plan to be approved by the state Medicaid agency (Department of Community Health).

How do I apply?

To apply for the ICWP, contact the Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF) at 800-982-0411. GMCF staff asks potential recipients questions over the phone, has them submit an application and schedules an in-person assessment. Based on the information provided, people may be eligible for the ICWP and be approved to receive services as funding becomes available.

4. The New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP)

The NOW and COMP waivers are intended to provide home and community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities. A diagnosis of developmental disability includes intellectual disability or other related developmental conditions such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or neurological problems that require a level of care provided in an ICF/ID.

Who is eligible?

The NOW Waiver is intended to provide supports for people who do not need 24-hour care. It is designed for people who live with family members or in their own home to help them achieve certain goals. There is currently a maximum limit of $25,000 a year for services under the NOW waiver. Goals for participants in the NOW program include: increasing independence and quality of life,
increasing the flexibility of service planning and delivery to meet an individual’s needs, and avoiding the need for more intense services.

The COMP waiver is for people who need a full range of out-of-home services or intensive in-home services to live in the community. The COMP waiver offers services to help people transition out of institutions and into community living. People using this waiver have an individual budget based on their specific needs and it is limited in amount. Individuals and their families should be aware of how much money is available to purchase the supports they need. A “Supports Intensity Scale” is used to determine the level of need.

Services that may be provided:

- adult occupational therapy
- adult physical therapy
- adult speech and language therapies
- behavioral supports consultation
- community access
- community guide
- community living support
- environment accessibility adaptation
- financial support
- natural support training
- prevocational services
- specialized medical equipment and supplies
- support coordination
- supported employment
- transportation
- vehicle adaptation

For detailed descriptions of the services provided and explanations of how the NOW and COMP waivers work for families, please contact:

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 26-246
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 657-2126; www.gcdd.org

How do I apply?

Application for the NOW and COMP waivers is made through Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) regional offices. To find out if you are eligible, you must submit an application along with supporting documentation of a developmental disability and mail it to your local DBHDD Intake and Evaluation Office (I&E) serving your county. Application forms and contact information for I&E offices can be found at the DBHDD website: http://dbhdd.georgia.gov under the “Services” tab. Following is a list of Regional Intake and Evaluation (I&E) offices and the counties that they serve.

Region 1
705 North Division Street
Rome, Georgia 30165
Phone: 706-802-5272 or 800-646-7721
**Counties Served:** Banks, Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Cobb, Dade, Dawson, Douglas, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Gilmer, Gordon, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Hart, Lumpkin, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walker, White, and Whitfield
Region 2
3405 Mike Padgett Highway, Building 3
Augusta, GA 30906
Phone: 706-792-7733 or 866-380-4835
**Counties Served:** Baldwin, Barrow, Bibb, Burke, Clarke, Columbia, Elbert, Emanuel, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jenkins, Jones, Lincoln, Madison, McDuffie, Monroe, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Putnam, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Twiggs, Walton, Warren, Washington, Wilkes, and Wilkinson

Region 3
100 Crescent Centre Parkway, Suite 900
Tucker, GA 30084
Phone: 770-414-3052
**Counties Served:** Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale

Region 4
PO Box 1378
Thomasville, GA 31799-1378
Phone: 229-225-5099 or 877-683-8557
**Counties Served:** Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Colquitt, Cook, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner, and Worth

Region 5
1915 Eisenhower Drive, Building 2
Savannah, GA 31406
Phone: 912-303-1670 or 800-348-3503
**Counties Served:** Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Bleckley, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Dodge, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pierce, Pulaski, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Ware, Wayne, Wheeler, and Wilcox

Region 6
3000 Schatulga Road
Columbus, Georgia 31907-2435
Phone: 706-565-7835
**Counties Served:** Butts, Carroll, Chattahoochee, Clay, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, Dooly, Fayette, Harris, Heard, Henry, Houston, Lamar, Macon, Marion, Meriwether, Muscogee, Peach, Pike, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Troup, Upson, and Webster

You must also show proof of citizenship (birth certificate, passport, or permanent resident card).
The short-term waiting list is for people needing waiver services immediately or in the near future.
The long-term waiting list is for people needing waiver services at some point in the future.

A planning list administrator (PLA) will be assigned to help you if you are on the short-term waiting list. This person will check in with you and your family from time to time to see if there are any
changes in your situation. He or she will also help you look for other supports.

If you are on the long-term waiting list, you will want to keep in touch with the region and let them know of any changes in your situation (for example, if the primary caregiver becomes ill or for other reasons is no longer able to provide care to the individual with a disability). It is important to stress that without adequate support from the waiver the individual with a disability may have to move to a facility.
OTHER GEORGIA MEDICAID PROGRAMS

1. **Georgia Pediatric Program Waiver (GAPP)**

The GAPP Waiver program may provide services in medical day care settings to children who are medically fragile with multiple system diagnoses who meet an institutional level of care. Children receive services in their homes, communities, and in “medical” day care settings rather than in a nursing facility or hospital.

**Who is Eligible?**

The GAPP waiver provides services to children from birth to age five who require skilled nursing care. Children must also meet the level of care criteria for a hospital or nursing facility.

**Services that may be provided:**

- Home health aides
- Medical day care
- Limited transportation to and from the medical day care center

A separate portion of GAPP may provide in-home skilled nursing care for children under age 21 with multiple system diagnoses who meet institutional level of care criteria for a hospital or nursing facility. Children cannot receive in-home skilled nursing at the same time they are receiving medical day care services.

**Note:** Community Living Supports through the NOW/COMP waiver are designed to support people with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities to remain in the family home by providing help with bathing, dressing, toileting, eating, and other personal support services. Currently, unskilled community living supports under the NOW/COMP waiver and skilled nursing under GAPP are considered duplicative and are not available at the same time. Services such as supplies may still be available to children receiving GAPP services.

**How do I apply?**

GAPP services are for an individual in need of specific medical services that Medicaid will cover only in special circumstances. The Prior Authorization (PA) Unit of Georgia Health Partnership (GHP) is responsible for determining if services are appropriate. Application for GAPP services is usually made while the child is in a hospital. Application may also be made through a participating nursing agency. Some of these agencies are listed below:

- A Premium Healthcare Solution: 678-964-2026
- Coastal NurseCare: 800-269-6877
- Maxim Healthcare: 770-909-3434
- Nurse Management Service of Georgia: 866-506-1720
- Pediatrics Healthcare for Kids: 770-414-0055
- Professional Nursing Services: 478-628-5790
- Sky Angel Nurses: 404-365-0203
- Southern Homecare: 770-916-1700
2. Katie Beckett (Deeming) Medicaid Program

Note: This is not a waiver service program but a category of eligibility for Medicaid assistance. Katie Beckett Medicaid is sometimes referred to as the “Deeming Waiver” or TEFRA.

Established in 1982 under the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) (P.L. 97-248), the Katie Beckett Medicaid Program (KB) permits Georgia to ignore (waive) family income for certain children with disabilities. It allows Medicaid benefits to be provided to children under age 19 who qualify as “disabled individuals” under Section 1614 of the Social Security Act (SSA) and who live at home rather than in an institution. Children must meet specific criteria to be eligible.

Qualification for Katie Beckett Medicaid should not be based on medical diagnosis but rather on the institutional level of care the child requires. Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Public Health, outlines the criteria used to determine eligibility. To read the details of Title 42 please visit the CFR website at [http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov) and select “Title 42 – Public Health” from the drop down box.

Who is eligible?

Children under 19 with chronic medical conditions who meet the SSA disability criteria are eligible for the Katie Beckett Medicaid Program. Children must also meet the criteria for level of care provided in a hospital, nursing facility, or ICF/ID.

Services that may be provided:

Once a child is deemed eligible to receive Medicaid benefits through the Katie Beckett program, the same services and providers should be made available as they would under any other category of eligibility for Medicaid.

Recipients of Katie Beckett Medicaid are also eligible for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers.

How do I apply?

The first step in the process is to determine the child's ineligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). If the county DFCS office cannot make this determination, they will refer you to the Social Security office to apply for SSI for your child. The letter denying SSI is one of the financial documents you will want to submit with your application for Katie Beckett Medicaid.

Applications for Katie Beckett Medicaid are processed by a Katie Beckett Medicaid Team who will be your main point of contact. The Katie Beckett Medicaid Team can be reached at:

Right from the Start Medicaid Project  678-248-7449 (phone)
Centralized Katie Beckett Medicaid Team  800-809-7276 (toll-free in Georgia)
5815 Live Oak Parkway, Suite D-2  678-248-7459 (fax)
Norcross, GA  30093

Ask to speak with a Katie Beckett Medicaid Specialist.
You will need to gather information and fill out forms in order to document your child’s disability. Treating physicians, parents, and others (school guidance counselors, therapists, etc.) complete the required application packet. These documents include:

- **Pediatric DMA- 6A Form** – this form documents the child’s need for an institutional level of care. Although the parent can fill out the form, both the parent and doctor must sign it. Both signatures must be dated within 90 days of submission.
- **Medical Necessity / Level of Care Statement** – this form must be signed by the physician and the primary caregiver.
- **Psychological evaluation** – for children with intellectual disabilities or a developmental delay diagnosis, this must be completed by a Psychologist (Ph.D.); if your child has an Individual Education Program (IEP) or an Individualized Family Service Program (IFSP) this will also be submitted.
- **Level of Care determination Routing Form 705** – this form includes identifying information and helps Medicaid to keep track of your child’s information.
- **Cost-Effectiveness Form 704** – this form includes places for the physician to estimate cost for therapy and skilled nursing services.

In addition to these documents, you will also need an initial Medicaid Application (form 94), a Notices of Privacy Practices form 5460, a Third Party Liability Form DMA 285, and a Declaration of Citizenship form 216.

Send in a certified copy of the child’s birth certificate or naturalization papers, a copy of their Social Security card, a copy of medical records, a copy of the child’s health insurance card, and a copy of their IEP or IFSP.

For children applying under ICF/ID eligibility they need a psychological assessment completed with the initial application and every three years following the initial approval.

Once a child is approved for the Katie Beckett (Deeming) Waiver, a review of continued eligibility must be completed annually. Forms and definitions are available at [http://dch.georgia.gov](http://dch.georgia.gov).

### 3. Money Follows the Person (MFP)

Money Follows the Person (MFP) is a grant designed to help individuals who are in nursing facilities and ICF/IDs to return to their homes and communities. Through partnerships with the Department of Human Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Community Affairs, and other state and local agencies and organizations, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) seeks to assist individuals to transition from institutional settings to the community.

**Who is eligible?**

Persons who have lived in a nursing facility or institution for at least three months and whose care was covered by Medicaid in the month preceding their move to home and community-based services are eligible.

Participants in the MFP program must continue to meet institutional level of care criteria after transitioning to the community. This includes adults and children with developmental disabilities, adults and children with physical disabilities and/or brain injuries, and older adults.

MFP includes transition services to assist individuals living in nursing facilities and institutions. These are services not available through Medicaid.
Services that may be provided:

- Community transportation – designed to pay for transportation when public and/or paratransit are not available; this service is limited to $500 per year
- Equipment and supplies – designed to help people obtain Assistive Technology and services, supplies, or equipment that are not covered by their Medicaid Health Insurance plan; this service is limited to $5,000 per year
- Household furnishings – intended to provide for basic household furnishings such as a bed, table, chair, dresser, appliance, etc.; this service is limited to $1,500 per year
- Household goods – intended to provide for basic household goods (e.g., cookware, toiletries); this service is limited to $750 per year; this service can also be used for a one-time $200 purchase of groceries
- Moving expenses – designed to assist with covering the cost of moving an individual’s belongings out of a nursing facility to the community; this service is limited to $750 per year and can be used to cover the cost of a moving service or the rental of a moving van or trailer
- Peer support – designed to assist individuals connect to agencies, individuals, and associations in their local community; this service is limited to $1,200 per year
- Security deposit
- Trial visit – intended to provide a brief period of personal support services or residential services (such as a personal care home) during a trial visit to the community before transition; this service is limited to $1,044 per year
- Utility deposits

You may meet the criteria to receive waiver services, but you may not receive services immediately. Funding for waiver slots is limited and only a certain number of MFP participants can receive services based on available funds in the state budget each year. To find more information about the MFP grant go to http://dch.georgia.gov/mfp.

How do I apply?

The first step is to express interest in MFP by notifying the social worker at the nursing facility or Intermediate Care Facility (ICF). The social worker will coordinate a visit from an Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRC) Options Counselor or MFP Transition Coordinator. Each of the Georgia’s 12 regional Aging and Disability Resource Connection sites (ADRCs) will coordinate community resources for residents of nursing facility seeking community-based options.

You can contact an ARDC directly. To find contact information for the ADRC that covers your county, go to www.georgiaadrc.com.

You can also contact the Georgia Department of Community Health, Money Follows the Person at 404-657-9323 or 404-651-6889, or e-mail: gamfp@dch.ga.gov.
4. Services Options Using Resources in a Community Environment (SOURCE)

SOURCE is a primary-care case management program serving individuals who are elderly and disabled. It is intended to improve the health of people with chronic health conditions. SOURCE links primary medical care with support services through case managers who work with individuals and their primary-care provider (PCP).

The published goals of the program are to:

- Integrate primary care, specialty care, and home based care
- Reduce emergency room use and hospital and nursing facility admissions caused by preventable medical complications
- Stabilize social and lifestyle factors that affect compliance, health status, and quality of life
- Ensure that current gaps in Medicaid benefits for medical and supported living services are addressed so they do not negatively affect health outcomes and cost
- Reduce the need for long-term institutionalization

Who is eligible?

Adults ages 65 and older, or younger than 65 with a disability, having a chronic condition that has been present for at least three months, are eligible to apply for SOURCE. Individuals must also meet Nursing Facility Level of Care. SOURCE serves Georgians who are aged, blind, and disabled who are eligible for Supplemental Security Income / Medicaid (SSI).

Services that may be provided:

An assessment helps to determine how much care a participant needs. SOURCE services may include:

- Adult day health
- Alternative living services
- Emergency response services
- Enhanced case management
- Home-delivered services
- Personal support
- Respite
- Skilled nursing service

There is no waiting list for SOURCE.

How do I apply?

To apply for SOURCE, call the number listed below for the program serving your county:

**Albany Association for Retarded Citizens** – 229-883-2334  
**Counties Served:** Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, and Worth

**Columbus Regional Healthcare System** – 706-660-6356  
**Counties Served:** Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, and Talbot
Crisp Regional Health Services, Inc. – 229-273-6282
Counties Served: Crisp, Dooley, Macon, Pulaski, Sumter, and Wilcox

Diversified Resources, Inc. – 912-462-8449 or 866-903-7473
Counties Served: Atkinson, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Glynn, Pierce, and Ware

Diversified Resources, Inc. – 229-386-9296 or 800-575-7004
Counties Served: Ben Hill, Irwin, Tift, Turner, and Wilcox

Diversified Resources, Inc. – 229-253-9995 or 800-706-9674
Counties Served: Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Lanier, and Lowndes

Faith Health Services – 678-624-1646
Counties Served: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Rockdale

Georgia Case Management – 706-495-7687
Counties Served: Clark, Elbert, Jackson, Madison, and Oglethorpe

Georgia Corner of Care – 706-737-8830
County Served: Richmond

Legacy Link, Inc. – 770-538-2650
Counties Served: Banks, Barrow, Cherokee, Clark, Dawson, Elbert, Forsyth, Franklin, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White

St. Joseph’s/Candler Health System – 912-367-6108 or 866-835-0709
Counties Served: Appling, Bacon, Bryan, Bulloch, Candler, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Jeff Davis, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Tattnall, Toombs, and Wayne

Source Care Management, LLC – 478-621-2070 ext. 2871 or 888-762-2420
Statewide

SOURCE Partners Atlanta – 404-463-3248
Counties Served: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale

UniHealth Solutions – 770-925-4788
Statewide

Wesley Woods (Atlanta SOURCE) – 404-728-6555
Counties Served: DeKalb and Fulton

For more information about the SOURCE program, please call 404-651-6889 or go to dch.georgia.gov.
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I&E  Intake and Evaluation
IEP  Individual Education Program
IFSP Individualized Family Service Program
KB  Katie Beckett Medicaid Program
MAO  Medical Assistance Only
MFP  Money Follows the Person
NOW  New Options Waiver
P2P  Parent to Parent
PA  Prior Authorization
PCP  Primary Care Provider / Primary Care Physician
PLA  Planning List Administrator
PRTF  Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
PTI  Parent Training Information Center
SOURCE  Service Options Using Resources in a Community Environment
SSA  Social Security Act
SSI  Supplemental Security Income
TBI  Traumatic Brain Injury
TEFRA  Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act
Unlock  Unlock the Waiting List
OTHER GOOD RESOURCES

1. Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)

The ADRC is a system of collaborating organizations that provide information about long-term supports and services. The ADRC provides information about such topics as Georgia Medicaid, housing assistance, transportation, employment, assistive technology, emergency preparedness, and veterans’ services.

For more details about the work of the ADRC and for information about local chapters, please visit their website at http://www.georgiaadrc.com.

2. Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission (BSITF)

The BSITF provides funding for services and items that will improve the quality of life, increase independence, and allow inclusion in the community for individuals with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. The BSITF administers the Central Registry to identify people who are injured, distributes resources through the Trust Fund, and advocates for improvements in statewide services.

As of June 2, 2011, all applications for grants to individuals are on temporary hold until further notice. Please check with the BSITF to find out if grant applications are being accepted currently.

Contact information: Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission
2 Peachtree St., NW, Suite 26-426
Atlanta, GA 30303
(888) 233-5760; www-bsitf.state.ga.us

3. Children’s Freedom Initiative (CFI)

The CFI is a collaborative effort of the Georgia Advocacy Office, the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Institute on Human Development and Disability, the Center for Leadership in Disability, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and People First of Georgia.

The mission of the CFI is to prevent children from going into institutions or facilities and to ensure permanent, loving homes for all children residing in congregate facilities.

The CFI educates families about resources available for children so that they can remain at home or in the community, even when their home of origin is no longer an option. The CFI also advocates for youth to transition from facilities into homes in the community.

For more information about the work of the CFI, please visit their website at www.georgiacfi.org.

4. Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC)

FODAC is a statewide provider of home health care equipment – mobility aids and daily living devices for people with disabilities. FODAC provides over $8 million each year in equipment and
services to the community at little or no cost to the recipients. FODAC is a 501(c)(3) and does not have direct funding from Medicare/Medicaid for the services offered. Most equipment is issued for a suggested donation but some services have mandatory fees.

FODAC provides home health (mobility and daily living) equipment to people of any age or any disability, temporary or permanent, for medically necessary and medically helpful reasons. These items are provided for a suggested donation. Individuals do not have to qualify financially, but FODAC's waiting lists place a priority on medical necessity and persons of low income.

**Ramps for Champs** builds home ramps and makes other modifications.

The **Durable Medical Equipment Program for Children** provides standers, wheelchairs, strollers, corner chairs, gait trainers, shower supports, toilet supports, walkers, Hoyer lifts, therapy aides, hospital beds, specialized mattresses, and many other items.

The **Durable Medical Equipment Program for Adults** provides wheelchairs, canes, bathing aids, walkers, Hoyer lifts, hospital beds and many other items.

**Remount** accepts vehicle lifts, refurbishes them, and installs them by a trained technician for a small installation fee. Other equipment can be installed or provided such as tie downs, hitch lifts, hand controls, and six-way transfer seats. Remount can only meet the needs of people who can drive to the FODAC facilities in Stone Mountain for a vehicle examination.

FODAC periodically receives donations of items such as wound care, liquid nutrition, assorted braces, incontinence items, etc.

For more information about FODAC or any of their programs, call 770-491-9014 or visit their website: [www.fodac.org](http://www.fodac.org).

5. **Georgia Crisis Response System for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (GCRS-DD)**

GCRS-DD was established as part of the settlement agreement resolving the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division complaint against the State of Georgia regarding the State’s failure to serve individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

GCRS-DD provides alternatives to previous ways of managing crises such as institutional placement, emergency room care, and law enforcement involvement.

GCRS-DD coordinates short-term, intensive, in-home and out-of-home supports to resolve an immediate crisis and makes connections to alternative services.

In-home supports make it possible for people to remain in their homes and communities. Only intensive in-home supports are provided for children aged 5-9.
These supports may include:

- Training on how to manage difficult behaviors;
- Help with simple changes to the living environment.

Out-of-home supports include:

- Crisis support homes for adults;
- Temporary and immediate support homes for children and youth (ages 10 – 17).

For more information about GCRS-DD, contact the Georgia Crisis Access Line (GCAL) 24 hours a day at 800-715-4225.

6. Lekotek of Georgia

Lekotek offers a wide range of services for children with disabilities and their families. Many activities involve the use of computers or toys adapted especially for a particular child’s needs. Support groups are available for moms, dads, and grandparents. Lekotek also provides consultation and training services for professionals and parents.

Lekotek services include Play Sessions and a Toy-Lending Program, Neonatal and Hospital Visits, Computer Camp, Sibling Group, and Training Activities.

**Play Sessions and Toy-Lending Program**

Play sessions are for newborns through 8-year-olds who have special needs (including developmental disabilities, developmental delay, and chronic health conditions). Sessions facilitate interactive play among family members. Parents, siblings, other family members, friends, and a Lekotek leader all join in on the fun during a play session. Families leave with a bag of toys to borrow for the month.

Play sessions take place once a month and last for an hour. Computer play is part of every play session. Families participating in monthly play sessions are eligible for Lekotek’s computer loan program. When available, families take home a computer system equipped with specialized software and adapted input devices. Computers and software are matched to the child’s needs.

Membership fees are $240 per year for children ages 0 - 8 years. Partial and full scholarships are available, and no family is denied services. As a nonprofit agency dependent upon corporate and community support, Lekotek of Georgia often has a waiting list for families desiring play sessions for their children. Once on the waiting list, however, families are welcome to participate in CompuPlay and all other family programs.

For more information about Lekotek of Georgia or any of their programs, call 404-633-3430 or visit their website: [www.lekotekga.org](http://www.lekotekga.org).
7. **Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P)**

P2P is Georgia’s Family to Family Health Information Center. P2P receives funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide health information, training, and support to families of children and youth with special health care needs. P2P helps families develop skills to participate in planning and decision making in health-related issues.

P2P is also Georgia’s Parent Training Information Center (PTI), funded through the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. As the PTI, P2P helps families work with early intervention, education, and transition systems and services. P2P provides training and information on rights, responsibilities, and protections under IDEA so families can actively participate in planning and decision-making.

One of the workshops that P2P offers is a 2-hour training on Georgia Medicaid Basics.

To find out more about P2P, their training opportunities, and support they can offer to you and your family, visit their website at [www.p2pga.org](http://www.p2pga.org) or call 800-229-2038; 770-451-5484.

8. **Tools for Life**

**Tools for Life**, Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program, gives more options for greater freedom by increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in communities of their choice.

Services within the Tools for Life network include initial interview, information and assistance on community resources, AT demonstrations, access to the AT Lending Libraries, AT evaluations and assessments, AT training, AT and Durable Medical Equipment reuse, and AT funding education.

The Tools for Life Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) are a community resource to Georgians with disabilities, families, friends, health care professionals, support circles, and others who are interested learning about assistive technology devices and equipment. Each ATRC is a hands-on learning center for assessment, demonstration, education, information, and training of AT available on the market today. Tools for Life have found that the majority of Georgians with disabilities need the opportunity to try out different devices and tools before purchasing them. Your local ATRC has a lending library that assists to “try before you buy” making sure the device is an appropriate match to the individual.

For more information about Tools for Life or any of their programs, call 800-497-8665 or visit their website: [www.gatfl.org](http://www.gatfl.org).

9. **Unlock the Waiting List (Unlock)**

Unlock the Waiting List is a grassroots campaign designed to educate the public and change policy around eliminating waiting lists for home and community-based services.
For up to date information on work being done at the policy level, please visit the Unlock website at: www.unlockthewaitinglists.com or contact:

Unlock The Waiting Lists! Campaign
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 26-246
Atlanta, GA 30303
(888) 275-4233
RESOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The following resources were used as source material in the preparation of this booklet. Detailed information about Medicaid, Medicaid waivers, other Georgia Medicaid Programs, and how to apply for each program can be found on the following websites.

Community Based Alternatives for Youth (CBAY)

DBHDD Family Handbook

DBHDD brochure

Community Care Services Program (CCSP)

DAS fact sheet – “The Community Care Services Program”
http://dhs.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHS-DAS/menuitem.9e91405d0e424e248e738510da1010a0/?vgnextoid=d10566ef2afff00VgnVCM100000bf01010aRCRD

DHR fact sheet – “The Community Care Services Program”

Georgia Pediatric Program Waiver (GAPP)

Classes of Assistance
http://www.georgiamedicaidlaw.net/gamedicaid/2933.pdf

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

CMS fact sheet – “HCBS Waivers Section 1915 (c)”
https://www.cms.gov/MedicaidStWaivProgDemoPGI/05_HCBSWaivers-Section1915(c).asp

ADRC Fact Sheet – “Learn About Georgia Medicaid”
DCH Booklet - “Home and Community Services”

Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care Policy – “Understanding Medicaid Home and Community Services: A Primer”

Independent Care Waiver Services Program (ICWP)


Katie Beckett (Deeming) Medicaid Program

DCH fact sheet – “TEFRA/Katie Beckett”
http://dch.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,31446711_31945377_69609895,00.html

Parent-to-Parent fact sheet – “Deeming Waiver”
http://p2pga.org/roadmap/insurance/insurancedeeming.htm

National Public Radio interview with Katie Beckett

Medicaid

How and where to apply for Medicaid
http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov

DCH fact sheet – “Medicaid Eligibility Overview”
http://www.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,31446711_31945377_31944881,00.html

Money Follows the Person (MFP)

DCH fact sheet – “Money Follows the Person”
http://dch.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,31446711_131673936_158019816,00.html

Money Follows the Person, Participant Transition Guide
New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP)

Ready Reference on NOW and COMP

DBHDD fact sheet – “New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver (COMP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)”
http://www.files.georgia.gov/DBHDD/Files/FAQs%20about%20NOW%20and%20COMP%20Waivers%20Nov-21-08.pdf

Service Options Using Resources in a Community Environment (SOURCE)

DCH fact sheet – “Service Options Using Resources in a Community Environment”
http://dch.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,31446711_131670936_158125902,00.html