

# Community Options

## **A GUIDE TO GEORGIA MEDICAID PROGRAMS AND MEDICAID WAIVERS**

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## 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](mailto:resourceadvocacy@thegao.org).

## **Community Options: A Guide to Georgia Medicaid Programs and Medicaid Waivers**

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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 individuals may apply for Medicaid at their local Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) office, by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or in person.

To find your local DFCS office call (800) 282-4536. You can also find the location of your local DFCS office and much more information about Medicaid in Georgia at:

<http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov> .

## **EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)**

The purpose of EPSDT is to ensure that all Medicaid eligible children 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.*, where the Supreme Court affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. 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**

### **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 21, with serious emotional and behavioral issues, and who are placed, or at risk of placement, in a PRTF. These children and young adults will be served by the program 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
- co-existence of disorders across four areas (developmental disabilities, substance abuse, medical, and psychiatric)
- recovery environment
- resiliency and treatment history
- acceptance and engagement

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
- 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 financial support services
- 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 job in a regular work setting
- transportation – 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

- email: [CBAYQuestions@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto: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

## **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 nursing facility placement. 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 two-way communication between isolated persons and a medical control center
- home delivered meals – prepared outside the home and delivered to the CCSP recipient
- 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 for the elderly in Georgia, including CCSP. The AAA serves as the

program's entry point. AAA determines both client eligibility and the type of services needed by individuals. Listed below is the contact information for the 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: 886-854-5652  
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

### **Independent Care Waiver Services Program (ICWP)**

The ICWP is a home and community based waiver intended to help adult Medicaid recipients with physical disabilities 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 Medicaid recipients who have severe physical disabilities, are between the ages of 21 and 64 when they apply, and meet the published criteria:

- are capable of directing their own services (except individuals who have experienced a TBI do not have to meet these criteria for services)
- have a severe physical impairment and/or TBI that substantially limits one or more activities of daily living and requires the assistance of another individual
- are medically stable but at risk of placement in a hospital or nursing facility, because community-based support services are not available; and are able to live safely in a home and community setting

Other factors also help decide whether eligible applicants can receive waiver services. Those factors may include: currently residing in a hospital or nursing facility, length of time on the waiting list, ability to live independently and the estimated cost of care (based on the projected care plan). As appropriate to the person's needs, the individual is offered a range of services.

Services that may be provided:

- service coordination
- personal support
- home health
- emergency response
- respite
- specialized medical equipment and supplies
- counseling
- home modification

Individuals, families, and the case manager work together to develop a plan of care to assess the individual's present circumstances, 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.

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

The “I&E” office will contact you to conduct a screening and make an initial eligibility determination. They will put your name on either a long-term or a short-term waiting list if you are eligible for the waiver. Attaching a psychological evaluation with your application can help speed the process.

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 planning 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. They will also help you look for other supports.

## OTHER GEORGIA MEDICAID PROGRAMS

### **Georgia Pediatric Program Waiver (GAPP)**

The GAPP Waiver program may provide services in medical daycare settings to medically fragile children 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 placing children in a nursing facility or hospital.

#### Who is Eligible?

The GAPP waiver provides services to children birth to age 5 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 assistance with bathing, dressing, toileting, eating, and other personal support services. At the present time 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 when an individual is in need of a 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
- Advanced Care Pediatrics: 404.835.3512
- 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

**Katie Beckett (Deeming) Medicaid Program** (Note: This is not a waiver services program, but a category of eligibility for Medicaid assistance. Katie Beckett Medicaid is sometimes referred to as the “Deeming Waiver.”)

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 family income for certain children with disabilities. It allows Medicaid benefits to be provided to children 18 years of age or less who qualify as “disabled individuals” under Section 1614 of the Social Security Act (SSA) and who live at home rather than in an institution. These children must meet specific criteria to be covered.

Qualification for Katie Beckett Medicaid should not be based on medical diagnosis but rather based on the institutional level of care the child requires. Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations outlines the criteria used to determine eligibility.

#### Who is eligible?

Children under 18 with chronic medical conditions that meet the SSA disability criteria. 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 the 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 HCBS Waivers.

#### How do I apply?

The first step in the process is to determine the child's ineligibility for 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.

You will need to gather information and fill out forms in order to document your child's disability. These documents include:

- social history - a detailed family history
- psychological evaluation - for children with intellectual disabilities or developmental delay diagnosis, this must be completed by a Psychologist (PhD.), the psychological evaluation done by your child's school may meet this requirement
- plan of care - service plan that states the child's strengths, needs and recommendations
- DMA- 6 Form - physician's recommendation for nursing facility placement, your child's physician must document that in the absence of service your child could be service in an institution such as a nursing facility, although the parent can fill out the form, the doctor must sign it

Applications for Katie Beckett Medicaid must be filed at the local county Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). To find your local DFCS office call (800) 282-4536. You can also find out the location of your local DFCS office and much more information about Medicaid in Georgia at: <http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov>

You must supply information and documentation required to complete the application packet. Certain financial information must also be provided. Treating physicians, parents and others (school guidance counselors, therapists, etc.) complete the required application packet.

When you contact your county DFCS office ask to speak with the Adult Medicaid worker, even though you are getting the waiver for a child. The Adult Medicaid worker is the one who handles the Katie Beckett (Deeming) Waiver.

The DFCS worker will submit all of the required documents at the same time to the agency designated by DCH. The designated agency, under the direction of a pediatrician, pediatric neurologist and nurses, perform the clinical review of the packet. If level of care is satisfied, the county DFCS office does a cost assessment to determine whether the cost of home care is less than an institution.

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



## **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 transition individuals from institutional settings to the community.

### Who is Eligible?

Eligible persons include those 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 transition to home and community-based services.

Participants in the MFP program must continue to meet institutional level of care criteria after transitioning to the community.

Target populations include adults and children with developmental disabilities, adults and children with physical disabilities and/or brain injuries, and older adults.

### Services that may be provided:

MFP includes transition services to assist individuals living in nursing facilities and institutions. These are services not available through Medicaid.

- community transportation – designed to pay for transportation when public and/or para-transit are not available, this service is limited to \$500
- 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
- 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
- household goods – intended to provide for basic household goods (e.g., cookware, toiletries), this service is limited to \$750, you can also use this service 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 the nursing facility when they transition to the community, this service is limited to \$750 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 you to connect to agencies, individuals and associations in your local community, this service is limited to \$1,200

- 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
- 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 detailed information about MFP 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 nursing facility residents 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](http://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

E-mail: [gamfp@dch.ga.gov](mailto:gamfp@dch.ga.gov)

### **Service Options Using Resources in a Community Environment (SOURCE)**

SOURCE is a primary-care case management program serving elderly and disabled individuals. 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 the 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, hospital and nursing facility admissions caused by preventable medical complications;
- stabilize social and lifestyle factors that affect compliance, health status and quality of life
- insure 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 institutional placement

### Who is Eligible?

Adults ages 65 and older or under 65 and disabled, having a chronic condition that has been present for at least 3 months. Individuals must also meet Nursing Facility Level of Care. SOURCE serves aged, blind and disabled Georgians 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 services

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, Charleton, Clinch, Coffee, Glynn, Pierce, and Ware.

229-386-9296 or 800-575-7004

**Counties Served:** Ben Hill, Irwin, Tift, Turner, and Wilcox.

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](http://dch.georgia.gov)

## **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

AAA	Area Agencies on Aging
ADA	American with Disabilities Act
ADRCs	Aging and Disability Resource Connection sites
AT	Assistive Technology
ATRC	Assistive Technology Resource Centers
BSITF	Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission
CASII	Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument
CBAY	Community Based Alternatives for Youth
CCSP	Community Care Services Program
CFI	Children’s Freedom Initiative
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
COMP	Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program
DAS	Georgia Division of Aging Services
DBHDD	Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
DCH	Georgia Department of Community Health
DFCS	Department of Family and Children Services
DHR	Georgia Department of Human Resources
DME	Durable Medical Equipment
EPSDT	Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment
GAPP	Georgia Pediatric Program Waiver
GCAL	Georgia Crisis Access Line

GCRS-DD	Georgia Crisis Response System for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
GHP	Georgia Health Partnership
GMCF	Georgia Medical Care Foundation
HCBS	Home and Community-Based Services
ICF/ID	Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities
ICWP	Independent Care Waiver Program
I&E	Intake and Evaluation
IEP	Individual Education 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

### **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>

### **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 those who are injured, distributes resources through the Trust Fund, and advocate for improvements in statewide services.

As of 6/2/2011, 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: [www.bsitf.state.ga.us](http://www.bsitf.state.ga.us)

(888) 233-5760

2 Peachtree St., NW  
Suite 26-426  
Atlanta, GA 30303

### **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](http://www.georgiacfi.org)

### **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. They provide 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 Medically Necessary 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)

## **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 and 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.

## **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.

Annual 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)

### **Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P)**

P2P is Georgia's Family to Family Health Information Center. That means they receive 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

## **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 assistance, 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)

## **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](http://www.unlockthewaitinglists.com)

or contact:

Unlock The Waiting Lists! Campaign  
2 Peachtree St 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, and how to apply for each waiver program can be found on these websites.

### **Community Based Alternatives for Youth (CBAY)**

CMS application from Georgia – “Details for Georgia Community Based Alternatives for Youth”

<http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidStWaivProgDemoPGI/MWDL/itemdetail.asp?filterType=dual,data&filterValue=Georgia&filterByDID=2&sortByDID=2&sortOrder=ascending&itemID=CMS1216646&intNumPerPage=10>

DBHDD brochure

<http://www.kidsnetgeorgia.org/kidsnet/uploads/CBAY/CBAY%20brochure%20-%20family2%20-%205.21.10.pdf>

### **Community Care Services Program (CCSP)**

DAS fact sheet – “The Community Care Services Program”

<http://dhs.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHS-DAS/menuitem.9e91405d0e424e248e738510da1010a0/?vgnnextoid=d10566ef2afff00VgnVCM100000bf01010aRCRD>

DHR fact sheet – “The Community Care Services Program”

[http://www.dhr.georgia.gov/DHR-DAS/DHR-DAS\\_Publications/client%20brochure%20Jan%2006.pdf](http://www.dhr.georgia.gov/DHR-DAS/DHR-DAS_Publications/client%20brochure%20Jan%2006.pdf)

### **Georgia Pediatric Program Waiver (GAPP)**

CMS application from Georgia - “Details for Georgia Pediatric Program Waiver”

<http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidStWaivProgDemoPGI/MWDL/itemdetail.asp?filterType=dual,data&filterValue=Georgia&filterByDID=2&sortByDID=2&sortOrder=ascending&itemID=CMS1216644&intNumPerPage=10>

## **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)**

CMS fact sheet – “HCBS Waivers Section 1915 (c)”

[https://www.cms.gov/MedicaidStWaivProgDemoPGI/05\\_HCBSWaivers-Section1915\(c\).asp](https://www.cms.gov/MedicaidStWaivProgDemoPGI/05_HCBSWaivers-Section1915(c).asp)

ADRC Fact Sheet – “Learn About Georgia Medicaid”

<https://www.georgiaadrc.com/AGModules/LearnAbout/LearnAboutDrilldown.aspx?mid=2970&tabid=372&categoryid=626&categoryrelationid=5079>

DCH Booklet - “Home and Community Services”

[http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit\\_1210/28/23/31945394homencommbooklet27-12-2010.pdf](http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/28/23/31945394homencommbooklet27-12-2010.pdf)

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

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/2010/primer10.pdf>

## **Independent Care Waiver Services Program (ICWP)**

DCH fact sheet – “Snapshot of Independent Care Waiver Program”

[http://www.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit\\_1210/35/31/75995826ICWP.2011.Final.pdf](http://www.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/35/31/75995826ICWP.2011.Final.pdf)

## **Katie Beckett (Deeming) Medicaid Program**

DCH fact sheet – “TEFRA/Katie Beckett”

[http://dch.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,31446711\\_31945377\\_69609895,00.html](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>

DCH - TEFRA/Katie Beckett Deeming Waiver informational manual

[http://www.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit\\_1210/26/56/46098632Katie\\_Beckett\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/26/56/46098632Katie_Beckett_Manual.pdf)

National Public Radio interview with Katie Beckett

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=131145687>

## **Medicaid**

How and where to apply for Medicaid

<http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov>

CMS fact sheet – “Medicaid Eligibility Overview”

[http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidEligibility/01\\_Overview.asp](http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidEligibility/01_Overview.asp)

Georgia Medical Care Foundation – Information about Medicaid in Georgia  
<http://www.gmcf.org/medicaid/>

### **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](http://dch.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,31446711_131673936_158019816,00.html)

DCH fact sheet – “A Snapshot of Money Follows the Person Initiative”  
[http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit\\_1210/35/34/92459779MoneyFollowsThePerson.1.2011\\_FINAL.pdf](http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/35/34/92459779MoneyFollowsThePerson.1.2011_FINAL.pdf)

Money Follows the Person, Participant Transition Guide  
[http://www.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit\\_1210/1/5/174518003MFP\\_TransitionGuide2012.pdf](http://www.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/1/5/174518003MFP_TransitionGuide2012.pdf)

### **New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP)**

Ready Reference on NOW and COMP  
<http://www.files.georgia.gov/DBHDD/Files/READY%20REFERENCE%20-%20CONSTRUCTING%20A%20GOOD%20LIFE.pdf>

DCH fact sheet – “A Snapshot of New Options Waiver and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program”  
[http://www.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit\\_1210/57/10/92560099NOW.COMP.1.2011.Final.pdf](http://www.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/57/10/92560099NOW.COMP.1.2011.Final.pdf)

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>

CMS applications from Georgia - “Details for NOW and COMP Waivers”  
<http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/portal/site/DBHDD-News/menuitem.2f54fa407984c51e93f35ead03036a0/?vgnextoid=358d655da4adf210VgnVCM100000bf01010aRCRD>

### **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\\_131673936\\_158125902,00.html](http://dch.georgia.gov/00/article/0,2086,31446711_131673936_158125902,00.html)