

# Service Map

for Childhood Health &  
Education in Georgia



A guide for parents, caregivers  
& anyone working with children  
0 to 21 years in Georgia



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

# How to use this map



**We know how important raising a healthy and happy family is to you. But it's not always easy.**

**This map was created to help you navigate the services offered in Georgia to support you and your family.**



**Answer the questions below to help you find which section of the map to read first.**

**Use the lists of national program websites and community-based resources and contact information to learn more.**



## Guiding Questions

- 1 How do I get health insurance for myself and my family?
- 2 Where do I go to get health care?
- 3 How do I plan for a healthy pregnancy?
- 4 What programs can help my family if we are low-income?
- 5 What kind of community resources can my family access?

While some programs and services are only available to low-income families, you may be surprised to learn what government assistance you and your family are eligible for. Visit the **Georgia Gateway** ([gateway.ga.gov](https://gateway.ga.gov)) to find out.



# What does health insurance cover?



Whether you have state-funded or private health insurance, you and your family should have access to preventative, specialty, and dental care.

## Preventative Care:

- immunizations
- exams
- screenings
- dental
- vision
- hearing



## Specialty Care:

- Ears, nose & throat specialist
- audiologist
- ophthalmologist
- occupational, physical & speech therapy
- HIV care

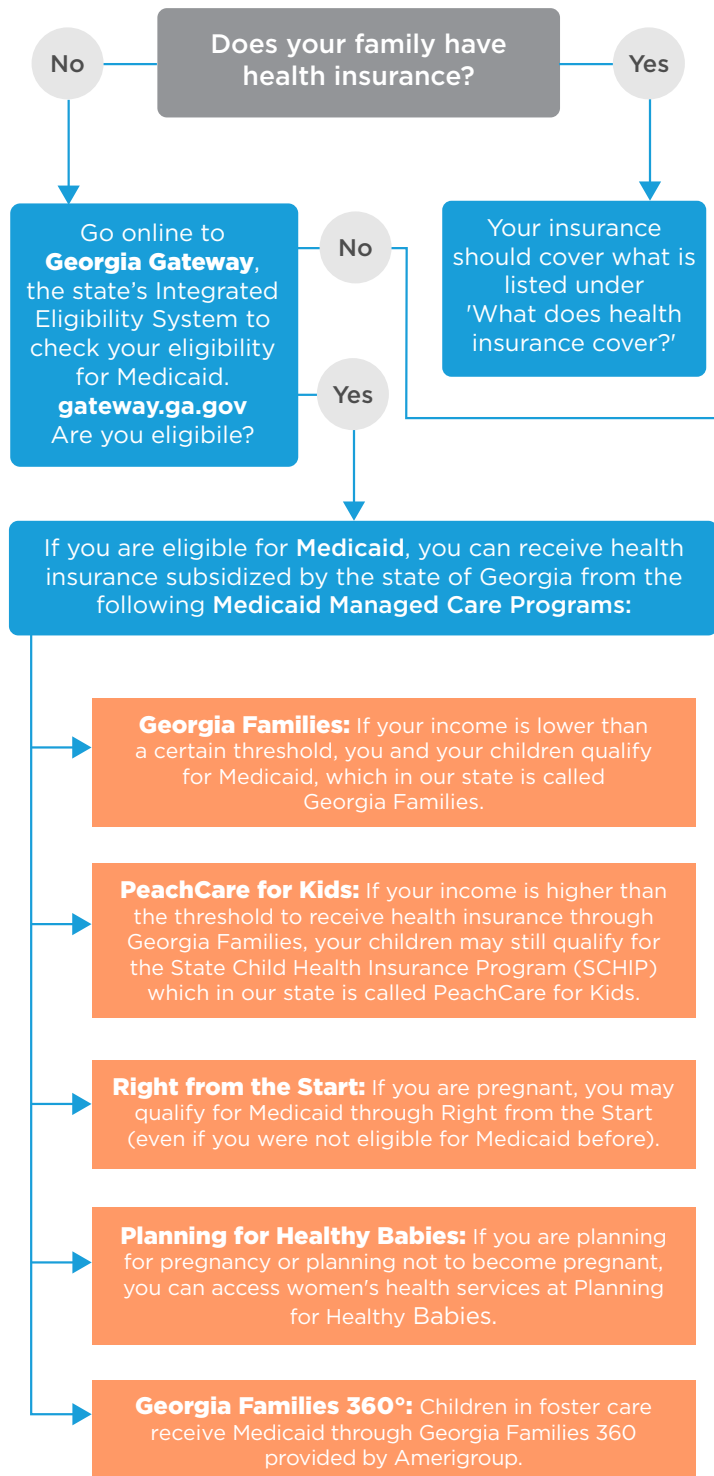


## Dental Care:

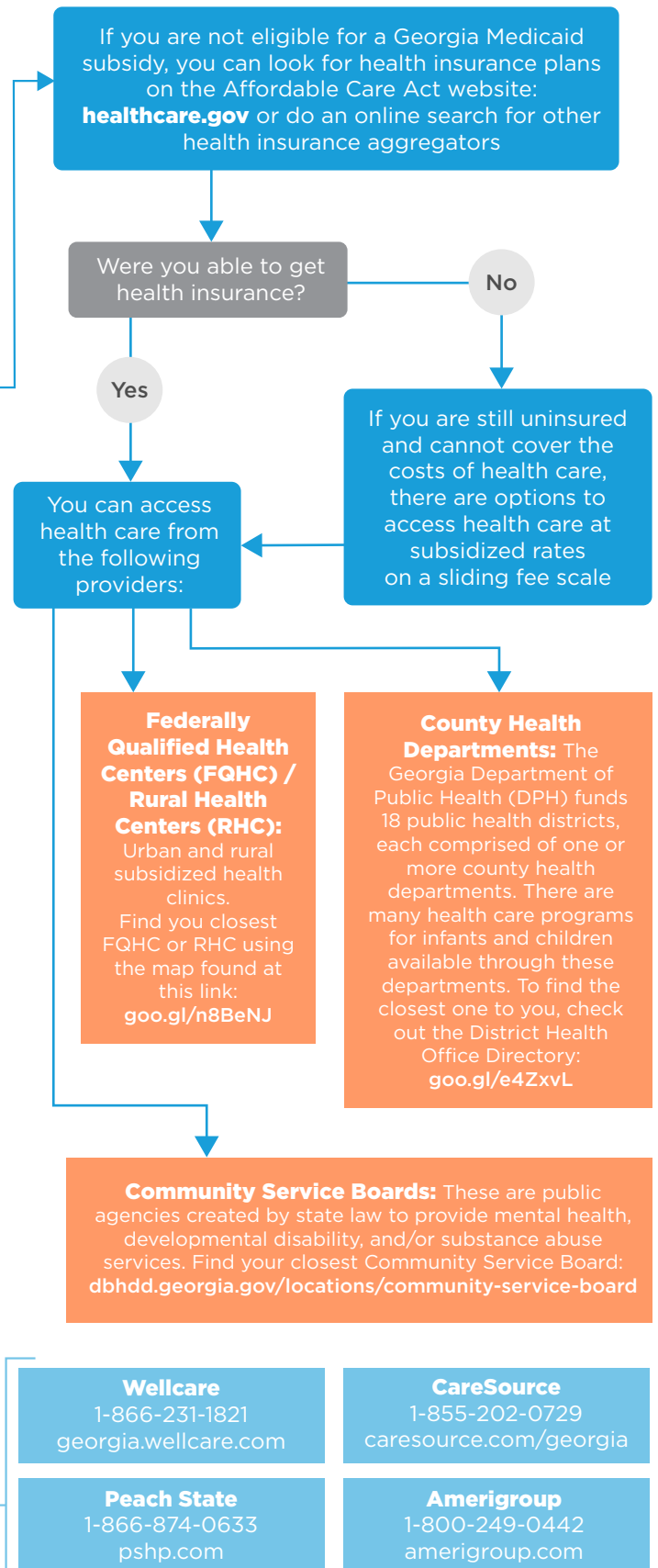
- exams
- x-rays
- cleanings
- fluoride
- fillings
- extractions



Finding adequate and affordable health insurance is one of the most important steps in caring for you and your family.

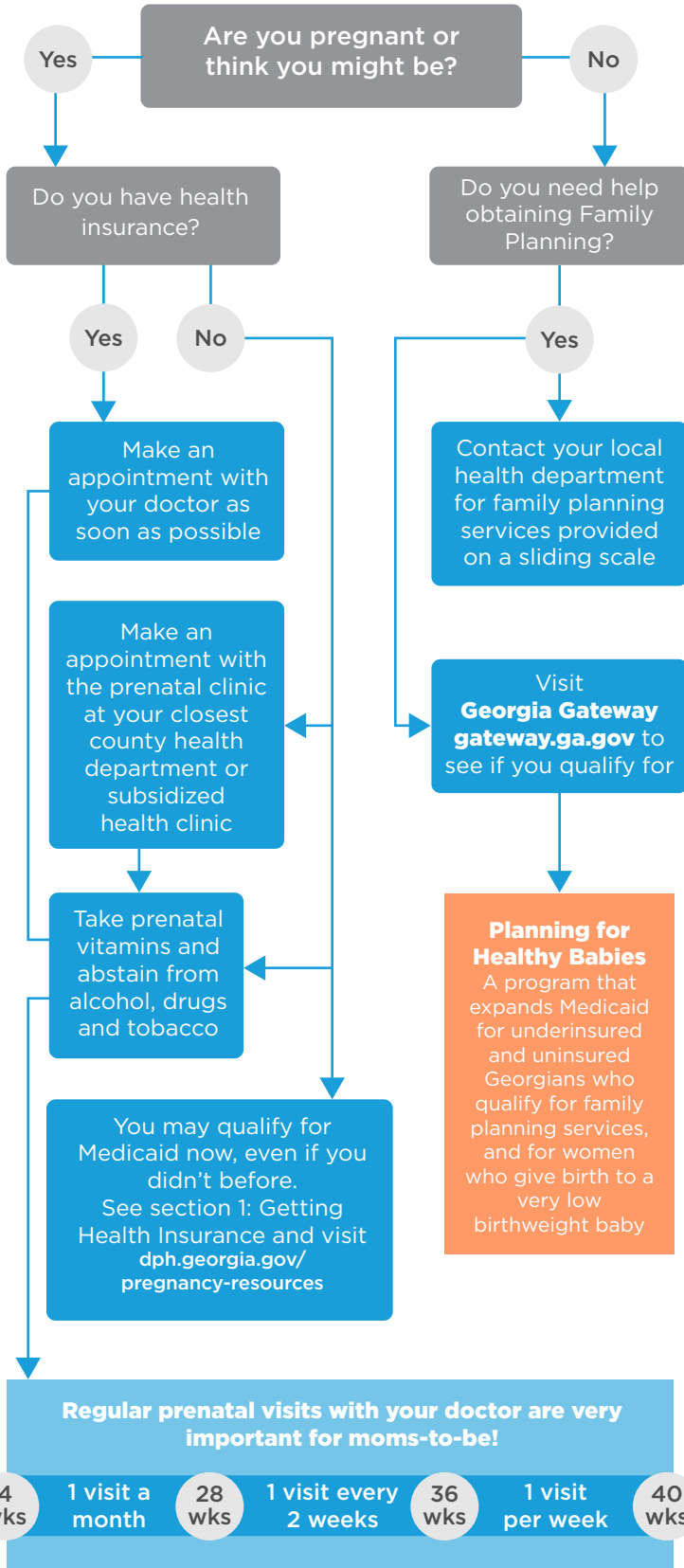


Know where to go in your community to get health care, either with or without insurance.



### 3 Planning for a healthy pregnancy

Having a healthy pregnancy is one of the best ways to promote a healthy birth. Getting early and regular prenatal care improves the chances of a healthy pregnancy.



### 4 Low-income family assistance

There are a number of programs that your family may qualify for depending on your household income that can assist with nutrition, child care, housing, medical services and more.

The **Georgia Gateway** ([gateway.ga.gov](http://gateway.ga.gov)) is an online portal that lets you see if you may qualify for:

- Help with buying food
- Help with buying prescription drugs
- Help with paying for child care
- Help with paying for health insurance
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

#### Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

A supplemental Nutrition Program for: infants and children age 1 to 5 years (including foster children), pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers (up to 1 year) and postpartum women (up to 6 months)

#### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

A monthly cash assistance program with an employment services component for low-income families with children under age 18, and children age 18 attending school full-time.

#### Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS)

Subsidizes the cost of child care for eligible low-income families living in Georgia.

#### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

A federally-funded program that provides monthly benefits to low-income households to help pay for the cost of food.

#### Medicaid (see section 1)

A joint federal and state program that helps with medical costs for some people with limited income and resources.

### HOUSING, UTILITIES, etc.

#### Subsidized Housing (Section 8)

[HUD.gov/states/georgia](http://HUD.gov/states/georgia)

#### Georgia Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

[goo.gl/HWAFMD](http://goo.gl/HWAFMD)

#### Lifeline Assistance Programs Access

Voice and/or Broadband assistance: [goo.gl/zhFq7b](http://goo.gl/zhFq7b)

#### Non-emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)

[goo.gl/Ct5xzy](http://goo.gl/Ct5xzy)

## GENERAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

<b>Georgia Family Connection Partnership</b>	404-527-7394
gafcp.org	
<b>United Way</b>	2-1-1
unitedway.org/local/united-states/georgia	
<b>Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH)</b>	404-657-2700
dph.georgia.gov	
<b>Georgia Community Action Association</b>	404-361-4442
georgiacaa.org	
<b>Poison Control</b>	404-616-9000
georgiapoisoncenter.org	
<b>Injury Prevention/SAFE KIDS Coalition</b>	404-785-7436
safekidsgeorgia.org/resources	
<b>Georgia DPH - Maternal and Child Health</b>	404-657-2850
dph.georgia.gov/MCH	
<b>Georgia DPH Tobacco Quit Line</b>	1-877-270-STOP
dph.georgia.gov/ready-quit	
	1-855-DEJELO-YA

## VISION & HEARING

<b>Georgia Hearing Aid Distribution</b>	404-657-4990
goo.gl/7LnRyw	
<b>Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation</b>	404-325-3630
lionslighthouse.org	
<b>Early Hearing Detection &amp; Intervention (EHDI)</b>	435-797-3584
dph.georgia.gov/EHDI	
<b>Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS)</b>	404-463-0616
goo.gl/EswyiR	
<b>Department of Human Services</b>	404-651-9361
dhs.georgia.gov	

## EMPLOYMENT

<b>Employ Georgia</b>	1-844-283-0997
employgeorgia.com	
<b>Technical College System of Georgia</b>	1-833-FOR-TCSG
tcsge.edu	
<b>Department of Labor</b>	
dol.georgia.gov	

## MENTAL HEALTH & CRISIS

<b>Georgia NAMI Non-Crisis HelpLine</b>	770-408-0625
Crisis Directory: namiga.org/crisis-info	
<b>Georgia Crisis &amp; Access Line</b>	1-800-715-4225
<b>Gateway Behavioral Health Services</b>	866-557-9955
gatewaybhs.org	
<b>Local Suicide Prevention Lines</b>	
suicide.org/hotlines/georgia-suicide-hotlines.html	

## EDUCATION

<b>Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office</b>	1-866-763-6481
goo.gl/eEvDqA	
<b>Georgia Local School Districts</b>	404-656-2800
goo.gl/N5zczS	
<b>State Funded Preschool Local Coordinator</b>	404-656-5957
decal.ga.gov/BftS/EnrollingInPreK.aspx	
<b>Child Care Resource &amp; Referral Agency</b>	1-877-316-3552
decal.ga.gov/CCS/CCRRSystem.aspx	
<b>Community Mental Health Center</b>	404-651-8520
dbhdd.georgia.gov/behavioral-health	
<b>Home Health Providers</b>	404-215-6000
homehealthcareagencies.com/directory/ga	
<b>Hope Scholarships for TCSG</b>	
goo.gl/CFerQm	
<b>GA Dept. for Libraries &amp; Archives:</b>	678-364-3710
georgiaarchives.org	

## ABUSE

<b>Prevent Child Abuse Georgia:</b>	404-413-1460
gcapp.org/prevent-abuse	
<b>Abuse Hotline</b>	1-855-422-4453
goo.gl/igx7vE   goo.gl/JQrBTB	
<b>HELPLINE Georgia</b>	1-800-338-6745
Alcohol & Drug Problems, Victims of Violent Crime, Gambling Problems, Legal Matters, Reporting Drug Trafficking, Self-Help and Support Groups	

## National Websites

**Learn the Signs. Act Early:** [cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly](https://cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly)

A milestone tracker app to help parents track their child's development and act early in case of concern.

**Text4baby:** [text4baby.org](https://text4baby.org)

A free text message service and app for critical health and safety information about baby's development, pregnancy, child care tips and more.

**Zero to Three:** [zerotothree.org](https://zerotothree.org)

A portal of resources and services for babies and toddlers focusing on critical early connections.

**First Signs:** [firstsigns.org](https://firstsigns.org)

A resource and education hub for parents and professionals about autism and related disorders, including the screening and referral process.

**Autism Speaks:** [autismspeaks.org](https://autismspeaks.org)

Promotes solutions across the spectrum, including an Autism Response Team hotline: 888-288-4762

**Autism Society of America:** [autism-society.org](https://autism-society.org)

Information and resources for individuals and families living with autism. 800-3-AUTISM

**American Academy of Pediatrics:** [aap.org](https://aap.org)

Professional association of pediatricians working to improve & develop healthcare policy for all children.

**American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:** [aacap.org](https://aacap.org)

Promotes the healthy development of children, adolescents, and families through advocacy, education, and research.

**Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration:** [samhsa.gov](https://samhsa.gov)

A federal agency that leads public health efforts to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness.

**National Federation for Families:** [ffcmh.org](https://ffcmh.org)

Focuses on the issues of children and youth with emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs and their families.

**National Institute of Mental Health:** [nimh.nih.gov](https://nimh.nih.gov)

The largest research organization in the world specializing in mental illness.

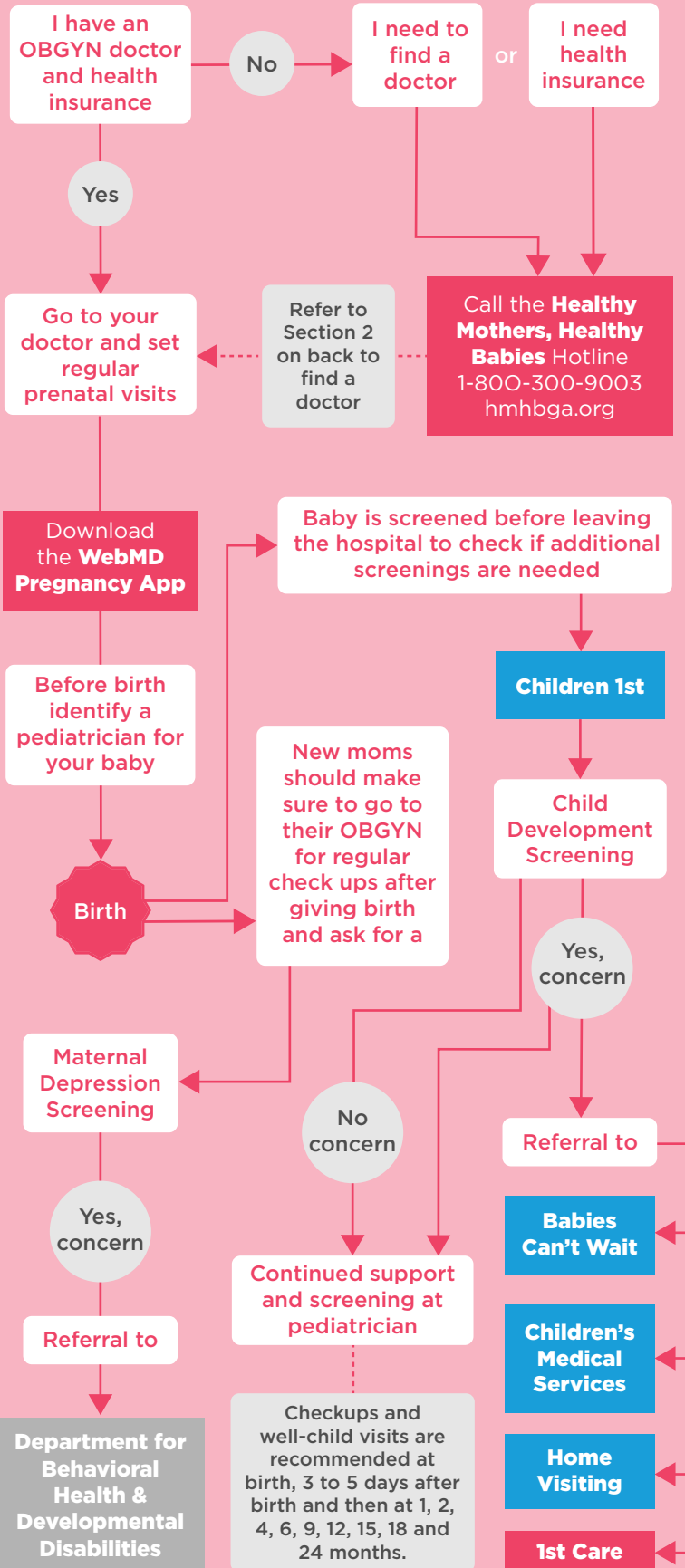
**Center for Child and Human Development:** [gucchd.georgetown.edu](https://gucchd.georgetown.edu)

Focuses on children, youth and families with special health care needs, behavioral health challenges and disabilities (including adults with disabilities).



# PRENATAL, INFANTS & TODDLERS

(0 - 3 Years)



## RESOURCES

### Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

[hmhbga.org](http://hmhbga.org) | 1-800-300-9003

HMHB operates the Maternal and Child Health Referral Line and the Prevent Child Abuse Georgia Helpline, to provide callers with appropriate referrals and resources including prenatal education, breastfeeding support, infant mortality prevention, and health insurance access.

### 1st Care

[dph.georgia.gov/services/services-children-first](http://dph.georgia.gov/services/services-children-first)  
855-707-8277

1st Care is a comprehensive home visiting program for infants who are medically fragile, including those born with low, or very low birth weight.

### Department of Public Health Perinatal Care

[dph.georgia.gov/perinatal-health](http://dph.georgia.gov/perinatal-health) | 404-657-2850

DPH Perinatal Care focuses on the health of women and babies before, during and after birth and include support services, information and referrals for breastfeeding, centering pregnancy, birth control, preterm birth, tobacco quit line, social support, safe sleep, & nutrition.

### MotherToBaby Georgia

[mothertobaby.org/georgia](http://mothertobaby.org/georgia) | 866-626-6847

MotherToBaby provides free evidence-based information to mothers, healthcare professionals, and the general public about medications, alcohol, drugs of abuse, herbal supplements, chemicals, infectious diseases, and other exposures during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.

### WebMD Pregnancy App

[webmd.com/pregnancy-app](http://webmd.com/pregnancy-app)

### Newborn Screening (NBS)

[dph.georgia.gov/NBS](http://dph.georgia.gov/NBS) | 404-657-4143

### Department of Public Health Immunizations

[dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section](http://dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section)  
404-657-3158

### Maternal Substance Abuse & Child Development

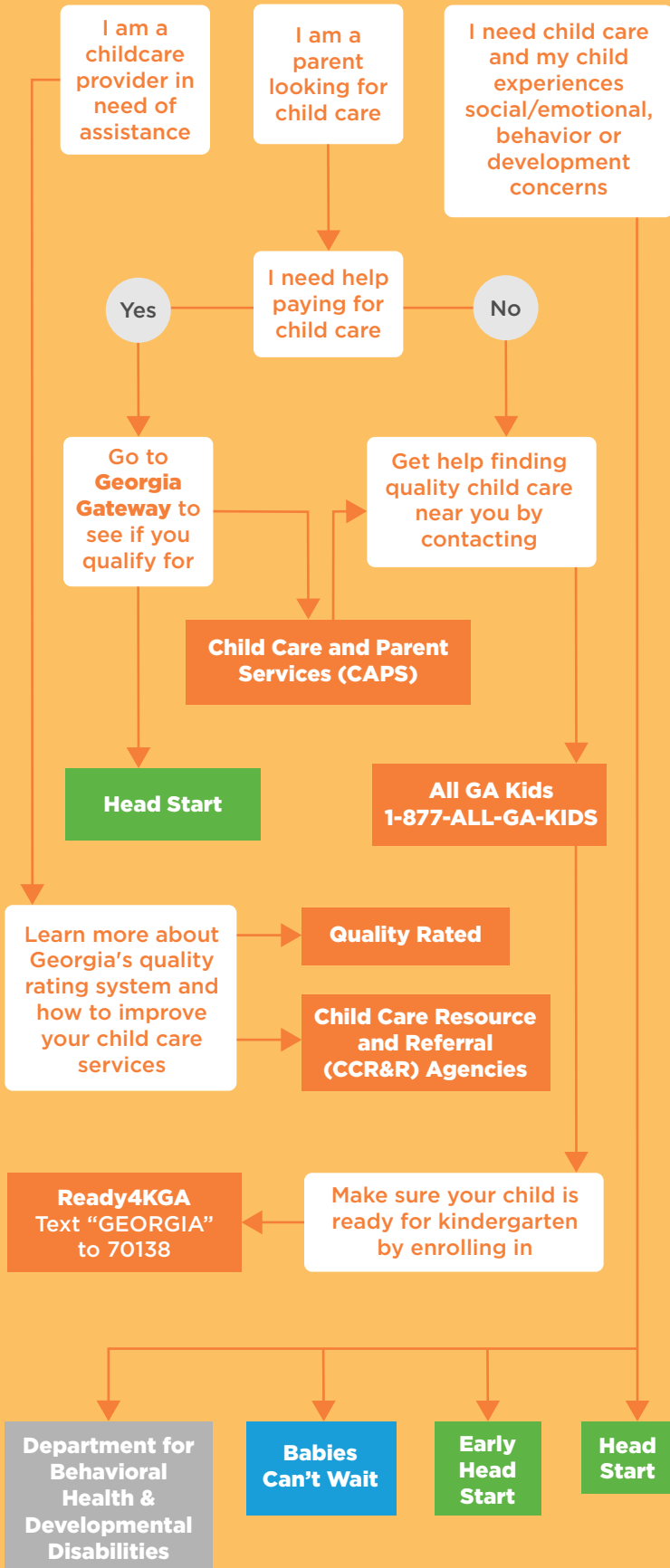
[emory.edu/msacd](http://emory.edu/msacd)

### Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

[dph.georgia.gov/WIC](http://dph.georgia.gov/WIC) | 1-800-228-9173

# CHILD CARE

(0 - 5 Years)



## RESOURCES

### Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS)

[caps.decal.ga.gov](http://caps.decal.ga.gov) | 1-833-4GACAPS

CAPS provides access to high quality and affordable early learning environments for families considered low-income.

### Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning (DECAL)

[families.decal.ga.gov](http://families.decal.ga.gov) | 1-888-442-7735

Bright from the Start DECAL administers the Georgia's Pre-K Program; licenses child care centers and home-based child care; administers the Child Care and Development Funds; and administers federal nutrition programs. It also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state.

### Quality Rated

[qualityrated.decal.ga.gov](http://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov) | 1-855-800-7747

Quality Rated is a tiered quality rating and improvement system used to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs.

### Child Care Resources & Referral System (CCR&R)

[decal.ga.gov/CCS/CCRRSystem.aspx](http://decal.ga.gov/CCS/CCRRSystem.aspx)

CCRRS promotes quality early learning by supporting child care programs that are working towards a Quality Rated star rating.

### All GA Kids

[allgakids.org](http://allgakids.org) | 877-ALL-GA-KIDS

Georgia's source for parents who are looking for quality child care throughout the state of Georgia

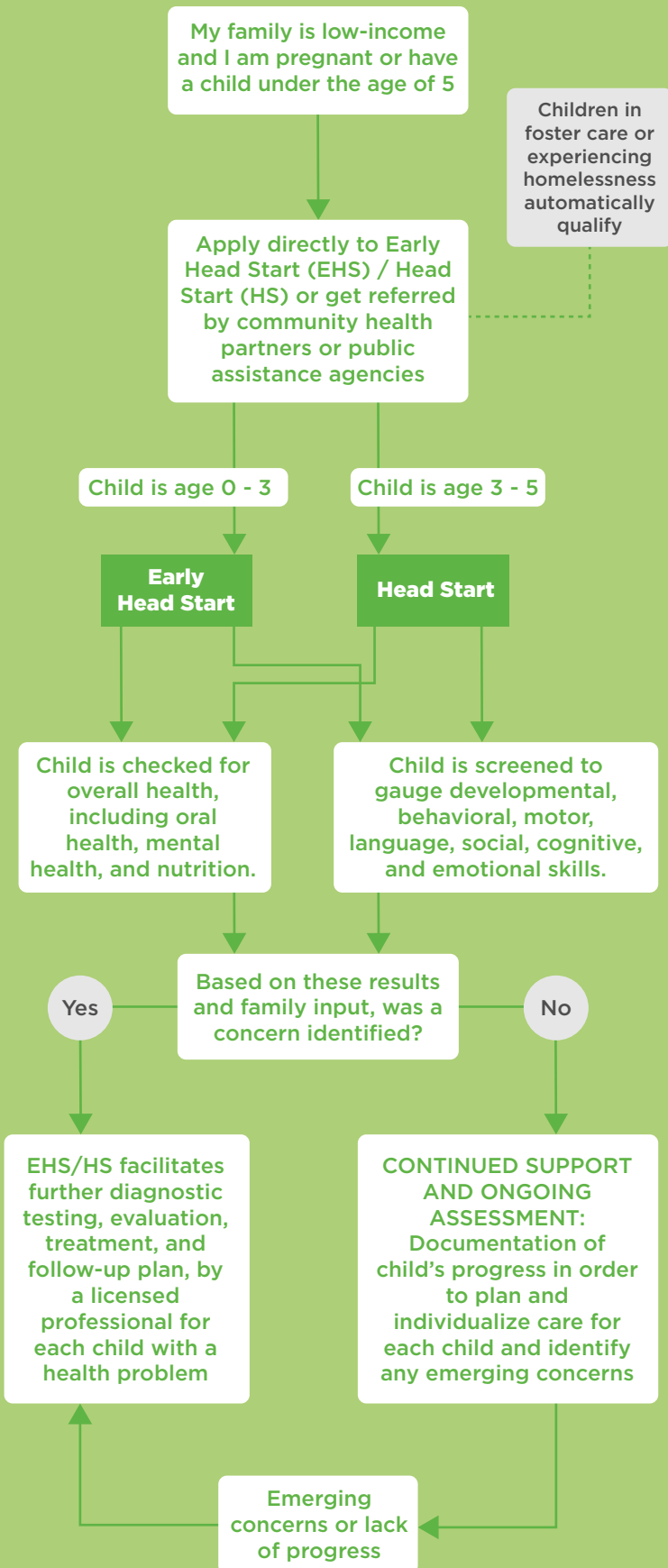
### Ready4KGA

[words2reading.com/ready4kga](http://words2reading.com/ready4kga) | Text "GEORGIA" to 70138

Developed by educational researchers, Ready4KGA is an evidence-based text messaging program for parents of newborns, 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds provided at no cost that are customized for Georgia.

# EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START

(0 - 5 Years)



## RESOURCES

### Early Head Start (EHS)

[georgiaheadstart.org](http://georgiaheadstart.org)  
404-929-2457 or 404-651-7425

EHS is a federally funded program that provides intensive comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income infants and toddlers (ages 0 to 3) and their families, and to pregnant women and their families. EHS is designed to nurture healthy attachments between parent and child (and child and caregiver). In Georgia, EHS is managed by local, non-profit community agencies. EHS programs include home- and/or center-based services, and family child care services as part of the EHS-Home Visiting program.

### Head Start (HS)

[georgiaheadstart.org](http://georgiaheadstart.org)  
404-929-2457 or 404-651-7425

Head Start a federally-funded program for low-income children ages 3 to 5 managed by by local non-profit community action agencies.

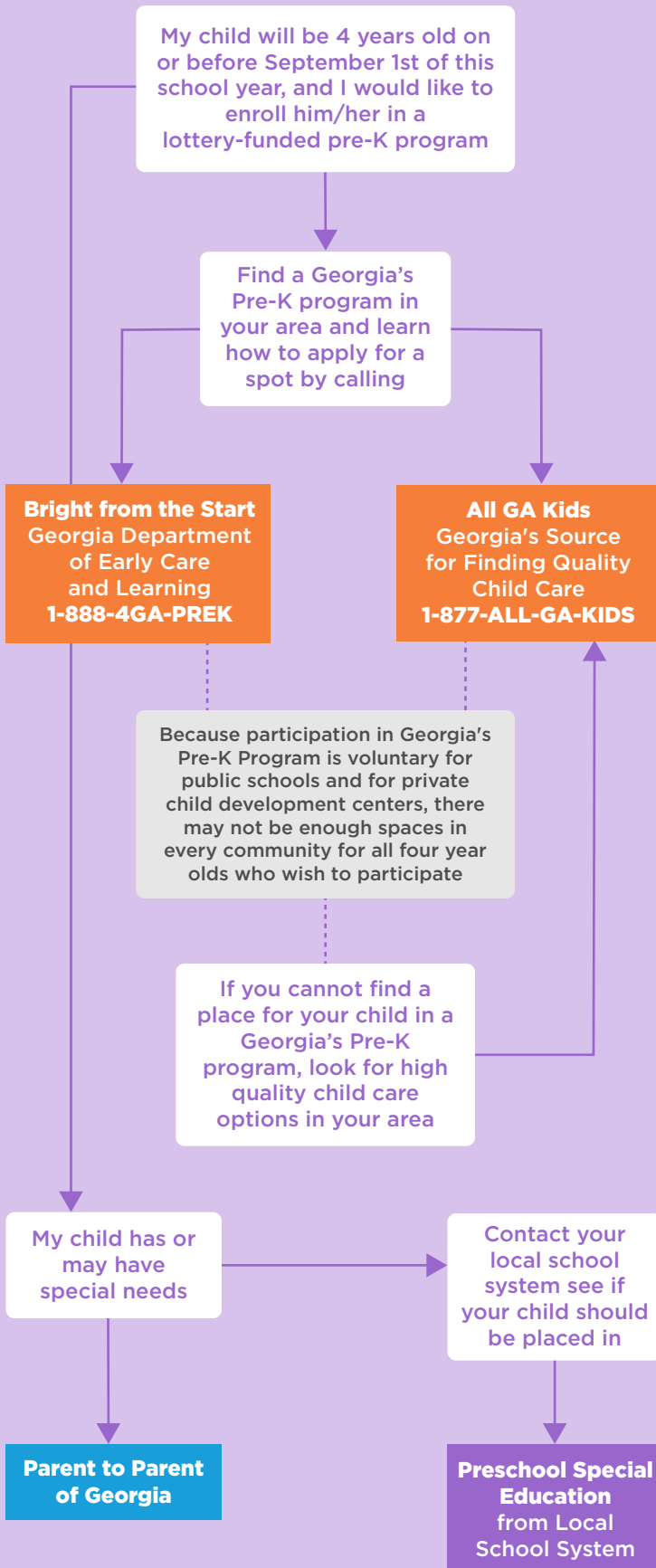
**Both EHS and HS provide high-quality health, oral health, mental health, nutrition services, developmental screening and verify that the child:**

- has a medical home provider;
- has health insurance coverage;
- is up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary medical and oral health care;
- has had evidence-based vision and hearing screenings;
- has received a nutritional needs assessment, including special dietary requirements, food allergies, and community nutrition issues;
- is receiving the necessary oral health preventive care, treatment and follow-up, including topical fluoride treatments;
- has access to any needed prescribed medications, aids or equipment for medical and oral health conditions (assistance provided to parents or caregivers).

**Read about the eligibility requirements for EHS and HS online:** [eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov)

# GEORGIA'S PRE-K

(4 years)



## RESOURCES

### Preschool Special Education

[goo.gl/UJBDNB](http://goo.gl/UJBDNB) | 404-657-9954

In Georgia, preschool-age children (ages 3 to 5) with disabilities receive special education and/or related services through their local school districts (Part C under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA]). For more information, contact your local school district.

### School-Age Special Education

[goo.gl/TP6kaQ](http://goo.gl/TP6kaQ) | 404-656-3963

Special education for school-age children is provided by local school districts in Georgia (Part B under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA]). The Division for Special Education Services and Supports includes programs that support local school districts in their efforts to provide special education and related services to students with disabilities. These services focus on enhancing student achievement and post-secondary outcomes through implementation of regional and statewide activities for students, families, educators, administrators, and other stakeholders. For more information on special education in your area, contact your local school district.

### Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

[gvs.georgia.gov](http://gvs.georgia.gov) | 844-FOR-GVRA, 844-367-4872

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency operates five programs that help people with disabilities to become fully productive members of society by achieving independence and meaningful employment.

### Department for Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

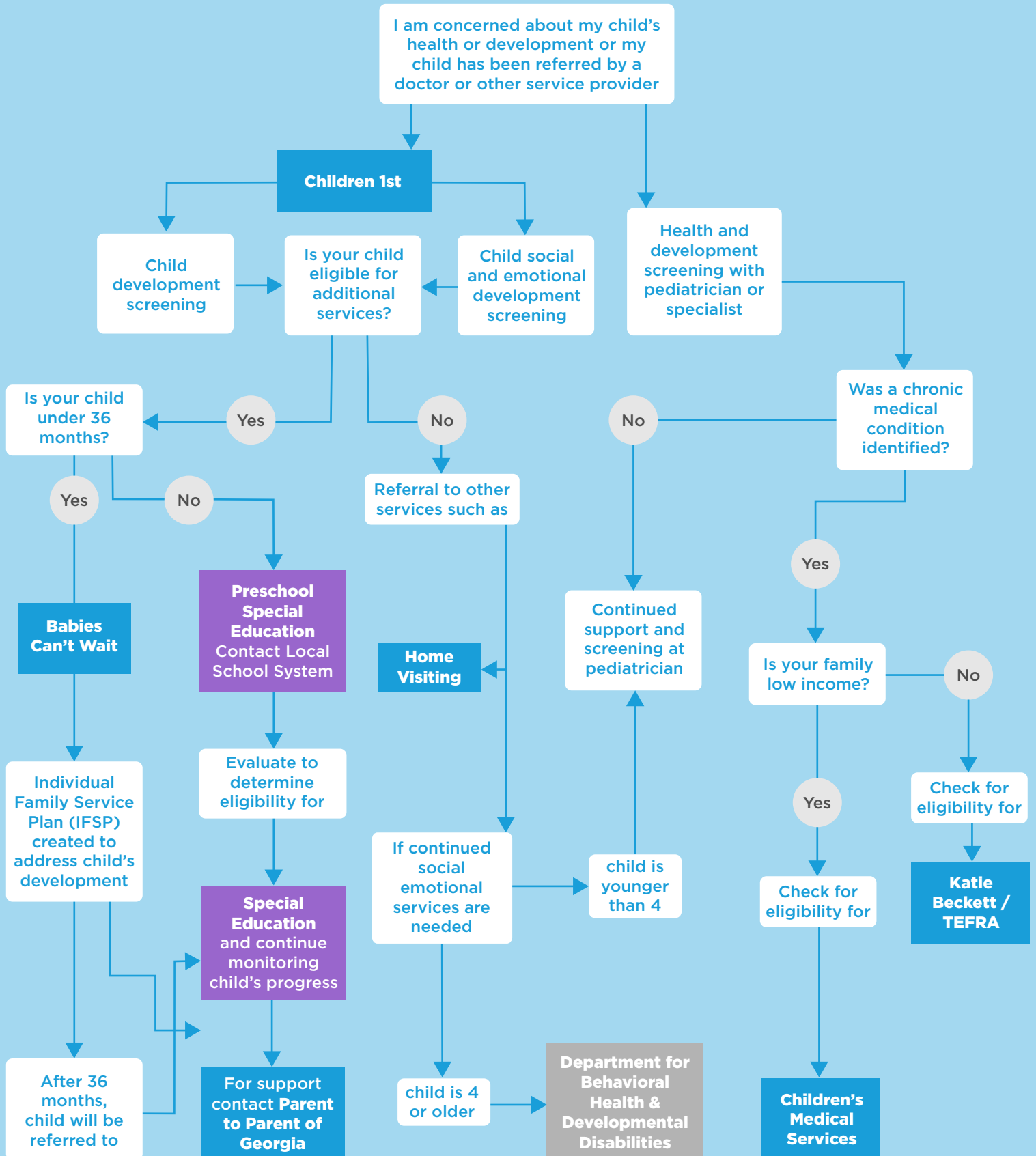
[dbhdd.georgia.gov](http://dbhdd.georgia.gov) | 1-800-436-7442

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities provides treatment and support services to people with mental health challenges and substance use disorders, and assists individuals who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more resources, see the Mental Health & Crisis heading under section 5, Other Community-Based Resources and the National Websites page.

# CHILDHOOD SPECIAL NEEDS

(0 - 21 Years)



# Resources for Children with Special Needs

## Children 1st / Child Find

[dph.georgia.gov/children1st](http://dph.georgia.gov/children1st) | 404-657-2850  
for referrals: 855-707-8277

Children 1st is the entry point into all public health services for children, birth to 5 years old and facilitates early identification of at-risk children. Children 1st implements Child Find (a federal program) using screenings and evaluation to locate, identify, and refer all young children with disabilities as early as possible.

## Babies Can't Wait

[dph.georgia.gov/Babies-Cant-Wait](http://dph.georgia.gov/Babies-Cant-Wait)

Babies Can't Wait provides early identification and screening for children ages 0 to 36 months. It coordinates a comprehensive system of services by developing an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) based on the specific needs of the child and their family. The services designed are delivered in the child's natural environment.

## Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2PGA)

[p2pga.org](http://p2pga.org) | 1-800-229-2038

P2PGA offers a variety of services to Georgia families impacted by disabilities or special healthcare needs. It also manages the Babies Can't Wait statewide directory of information and serves as the Parent Training Information Center for the southeast. Visit P2PGA's Roadmap to Success portal for useful links, videos and other information: [roadmap.p2pga.org](http://roadmap.p2pga.org)

## Children's Medical Services (CMS)

[dph.georgia.gov/CMS](http://dph.georgia.gov/CMS) | 800-300-9003

CMS works to ensure that there is a comprehensive system of quality specialty health care services available for children in low-income households with chronic medical conditions from birth to 21 years of age. Call the number above for a statewide directory of CMS programs.

## Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

[gcdd.org](http://gcdd.org) | 888-275-4233

GCDD promotes public policy that creates an integrated community life for persons with developmental disabilities by sharing information, coordinating public outreach and implementing strategic legislative advocacy.

## Georgia Advocacy Office

[thegao.org](http://thegao.org) | 800-537-2329

GAO is a federally-mandated protection and advocacy system for people labeled as disabled or mentally ill in Georgia.

## Georgia Tools for Life

[gatfl.org](http://gatfl.org) | 404-894-0541

Georgia Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access and acquisition of assistive technology devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they live, learn, work and play independently with greater freedom.

## Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP)

[healthforcega.com/georgia-pediatric-program-children](http://healthforcega.com/georgia-pediatric-program-children)

GAPP serves children who are medically fragile and in need of skilled nursing care. The program provides services either in-home or in a medical day care as an alternative to full-time skilled nursing facility care or hospital care.

## Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) & New Options Waiver (NOW)

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

COMP and NOW are waiver programs that offer home- and community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities.

## Katie Beckett/TEFRA Medicaid Program

[dch.georgia.gov/tefra](http://dch.georgia.gov/tefra) | 678-248-7449

Katie Beckett provides benefits to certain children 18 years of age or less who qualify as disabled individuals and who live at home rather than in an institution, regardless of family income.

## Georgia Home Visiting Program

[greatstartgeorgia.org](http://greatstartgeorgia.org) | 1-855-707-8277

The Georgia Home Visiting Program provides voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to at-risk pregnant women and parents with young children. The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program (the program name on the federal level), provides voluntary, culturally-appropriate, individually-tailored supports to families in their homes, including providing information about children's health and development, and support services.

# About

This map was created by the **Georgia Department of Community Health** (DCH), one of Georgia's four health agencies serving the state's growing population of almost 10 million people. Responsible for a \$15 billion budget in State Fiscal Year 2017, the department is one of the largest agencies in Georgia state government.

Serving as the lead agency for Medicaid and also overseeing the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP), Healthcare Facility Regulation and Health Information Technology in Georgia, DCH's programs provide access to health care services for one in four Georgians.

Through effective planning, purchasing and oversight, DCH provides access to affordable, quality health care to millions of Georgians, including some of the state's most vulnerable and underserved populations.

Five enterprise offices support the work of the agency's four programs, with more than 600 DCH employees based in Atlanta, Cordele and across the state.

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



## **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

### **Main Office**

404-656-4507  
2 Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

### **State Office of Rural Health**

502 Seventh Street South  
Cordele, GA 31015-1443