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| Physician’s Guide to Georgia DepartmentPublic Health Programs for Children*Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) offers many programs to serve infants, children, & adolescents. The following is a brief guide to understanding the various programs and services offered in Georgia. Visit https://dph.georgia.gov/women-and-children for more information. Please view this guide on line at www.gaaap.org/phg.com* | | | |
| Program Name | **Target Population** | **Program Overview** | Financial or Other EligibilityRequirements |
| [Children 1st](https://dph.georgia.gov/children1st) | Birth - 5 yrs. | Early identification of at-risk children & linkage to public & community-based programs & services. Serves as *Single Point of Entry* to Babies Can’t Wait, Children’s Medical Services, 1st Care, & Early Hearing Detection & Intervention | None |
| [Babies Can’t Wait](https://dph.georgia.gov/babies-cant-wait) | Birth – 3 yrs. | Early intervention program that offers a variety of coordinated services for infants and toddlers with special needs, from birth to three years of age, and their families. | Diagnosed physical or behavioral/mental condition (e.g., such as blindness, autism, spina bifida) that is known to result in a developmental delay OR confirmed diagnosed developmental delay by a qualified team of early intervention professionals |
| [Child Occupant Safety Project](https://dph.georgia.gov/health-topics/injury-prevention-program/child-occupant-safety-project-cosp#:~:text=The%20Child%20Occupant%20Safety%20Project,and%20caregivers%20transport%20children%20safely.) | Birth – 8 yrs. | Provides child safety seats, education on proper installation use, and transportation evaluations for child with special health considerations. | Ga. residents eligible or enrolled in WIC, Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids®, or other state-approved financial eligibility program. |
| [Children’s Medical Services (CMS)](https://dph.georgia.gov/CMS) | Birth – 21 yrs. | Facilitates access to comprehensive and community-based resources & support systems for children & youth with complex medical needs. Serves as the payor of last resort for medical expenses such as diagnostic testing, medications & supplies, durable medical equipment, genetic testing & counseling. Provides support for youth transitioning from pediatric to adult health care. | Household Income limited <247% of Federal Poverty Level; limited to designated chronic medical conditions; contact program for additional information. |
| [Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI)](https://dph.georgia.gov/ehdi) | All Newborns | All newborns must receive an initial hearing screening in both ears; those who fail this screening are to be linked to follow-up screening by 3 months of age. Audiological evaluation is to be provided to those newborns who fail their follow-up screening by 6 months of age. As indicated, these infants are to be linked to diagnostic evaluation & care coordination up to age 5. Suspected & confirmed hearing impairment is a notifiable disease in Georgia. Consider targeted screening for congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) of all newborns who fail their initial hearing screening. | Georgia residents through age 5 suspected or confirmed as deaf or hard of hearing. |
| [Evidence Based Home Visiting](https://dph.georgia.gov/homevisiting) | Pregnant women & families with children birth to 5 at-risk | Strengths-based, family-centered support for pregnant women and at-risk families with children birth to 5 entry offers linkages and resources to support healthy growth and development. | None |
| [First Steps Georgia](https://dph.georgia.gov/first-steps-georgia) | Primary caregivers with young children | Expectant mothers and primary caregivers with young children receive scheduled screening and referrals to services and resources as needed. | None |
| [Georgia Autism Initiative](https://dph.georgia.gov/childrens-health/georgia-autism-initiative) | Birth – 21 yrs. | Statewide coordination & delivery of services to improve early identification, screening, diagnosis, intervention, and transition planning for infants and youth with autism spectrum disorders and their families. | None |
| [Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions & Services (GRITS)](https://dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section/georgia-immunization-registry-grits) | All | Designed to collect & maintain accurate, complete, and current vaccination records to promote effective and cost-efficient disease prevention and control. All vaccines administered are to be reported in GRITS. | None |
| [Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention](https://dph.georgia.gov/environmental-health/healthy-homes-and-lead-poisoning-prevention) | 3 months to  6 yrs. | Seeks to eliminate childhood lead poisoning. Blood lead level test are required for children enrolled in Medicaid & PeachCare for Kids® at 1 & 2 years of age; also between ages of 36 and 72 months if not previously tested. | None |
| Hearing and Vision Screening Program | All children | All children entering Ga public school systems are to have a completed [Form 3300](https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/DPH_Form_3300.pdf). Hearing test are to be performed on children ages 3 – 6 years of age and at 8 & 10 years with additional screening once between ages 11-14, 15-17, and 18-21 years. Vision screening is to be performed on children ages 3 – 6 years, 8, 10, 12, & 15 years of age. A risk assessment for hearing and vision concerns at all other ages. | None |
| [Georgia Newborn Screening Program](https://dph.georgia.gov/NBS) | Newborns | Early detection of disorders detectable at birth, including critical congenital heart disease, endocrine conditions, hearing loss, hemoglobin disorders, immunodeficiencies, and metabolic disorders. | None |
| [Notifiable Diseases Epidemiology Section](https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology/disease-reporting) | All | All Georgia physicians, laboratories, & other health care providers are required by law to report patients with the specific conditions. | None |
| [Oral Health Section](https://dph.georgia.gov/oralhealthprogramga) | School Age Children and Adolescents | Promotes prevention, early detection, screening, treatment, & control of oral disease. | <185% Federal Poverty Level or those qualified for free/reduced lunch |
| [Safe Infant Sleep](https://dph.georgia.gov/safetosleep#:~:text=Each%20year%20in%20the%20United,state%27s%20current%20infant%20mortality%20rate.) | All | Georgia Safe to Sleep Campaign offers evidence-based education and training on SUID risk reduction. | None |
| Vaccines forChildren (VFC) | Birth through 18 yrs. | Vaccines available to children who are enrolled in Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids, uninsured, underinsured or are Alaskan natives or American Indian. | Children who are enrolled in Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids, uninsured, underinsured or are Alaskan natives or American Indian. |
| [Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)](https://dph.georgia.gov/WIC) | Pregnant, post-partum, nursing mothers, infants & children up to age 5 | Special supplemental nutrition program that provides nutrition assessment and education, breastfeeding support, monthly food vouchers and refers applicants to available health and social services. | Georgia residents with income < 185% of Federal Poverty Level or enrolled in Medicaid & at risk for nutritional deficiencies |

**Additional Information on Public Health Programs & Services**

[**Maternal and Child Health Conditions Database**](https://sendss.state.ga.us/ords/sendss/!mch.coord_search)

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

[**Georgia Maternal Child Health Coordinator Locator**](https://sendss.state.ga.us/ords/sendss/!nbsmart_eligible.search)

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