

What is Medicaid Waiver?

A Medicaid Waiver is money that may be used to pay for services for a person who has developmental disabilities. These services can take place in the person's home or in the community. Medicaid usually pays for doctor appointments, hospital expenses, medicine, therapy and some supplies and equipment. The waiver also allows for Medicaid dollars to be used to pay for additional services. Learn more by clicking <http://www.gcdd.org/resources/real-supports-resources/>

Which department or agency do I go to for services? It can be so confusing.

It is a complex service system and there are different departments involved in the delivery of services. This explanation of each one may assist you in knowing where to begin.

Babies Can't Wait (BCW) – BCW is Georgia's statewide interagency service delivery system for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. Through the 18 district offices across the state, families can access early intervention services. To access BCW, you can call 1-800-229-2038 or 770-451-5484 (in Atlanta).

Georgia Department of Education Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports – The DOE offers programs and services that support local school districts in their efforts to provide special education and related services to students with disabilities. Services include: development of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for each child; creation of transition plan when a child is transition into or out of school; provision of occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy services and transportation services. Contact your local school district and ask for their special education department.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities – DBHDD provides support to people with developmental disabilities. DBHDD serves people of all ages with the most severe and likely to be long-term conditions. They offer family support including respite care, home and community-based waivers. There are six regional offices throughout the state. To apply for support, call the Intake and Evaluation team at the regional office nearest you. Please note that there are long waiting lists for services. Apply early. For more information on DBHDD, view the DBHDD 2013 Agency Guide.

Social Security Administration – Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) serves children and adults. There is an income criteria. The parents'

incomes are taken into consideration when the child is under 18. The person is considered a family of one at age 18 and only their income is counted even if they are still living at home. Please note that a person can get switched from Medicaid to Medicare if parent retires or dies. This has implications for accessing services. Contact your local Social Security Office to apply or call the toll free number (800) 772-1213

Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) – DHS provides Georgia with customer-focused human services that promote child and adult protection, child welfare, stronger families and self-sufficiency. Two divisions that may be of help are:

The Division of Aging offers the Community Care Service Program (CCSP) waiver to provide in-home supports for people with disabilities and people who are elderly. They also serve children. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging to apply. The Department of Family and Children Service offers the Katie Beckett (Deeming Waiver), an eligibility category for Medicaid when family's income is too high for them to qualify for SSI. Contact your local DFCS office to apply. Ask for the Medicaid Worker.

Department of Community Health – DCH is the state's lead agency for health care planning and the single state agency for Medicaid. Through "PeachCare for Kids," they offer children's medical services. "Georgia Families" provides health care services to enrolled members of Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids. They also offer a variety of medical specialty clinics. Contact your local health department for specific information. They also offer a variety of long-term care and waiver programs. To learn more about the waivers, see the question "what kind of waivers are available?" below.

What kind of Medicaid waivers are available in Georgia?

The NOW Waiver stands for New Options Waiver. It provides supports to people who do not need 24-hour care. It was designed for people with disabilities who live with family members or in their own home. There is a limit of \$25,000 a year for services under the NOW Waiver. This waiver is for people who need less intensive services and supports. It is administered through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

The COMP Waiver stands for Comprehensive Supports Waiver. It was designed for people who need a full range of out-of-home services or intensive in-home services. The COMP Waiver is also used for people who are transitioning out of institutions into community living. It is

administered through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Learn more about the COMP Waiver by clicking <http://www.gcdd.org/public-policy> (ICWP) is for people who have physical disabilities or traumatic brain injuries. A person must be between the ages of 21-64 to qualify for the ICWP. It is administered through the Department of Community Health. Their web site is: <http://dch.georgia.gov>

The Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP) waiver is for children who are medically fragile. It provides specialized day care and transportation to get there. It is administered through the Department of Community Health. Visit their web site at: <http://dch.georgia.gov> or Contact Sherri Collins at (404) 657-0623 additional information.

The Community Care Services Program waiver (CCSP) is a program that serves people who are elderly or people with disabilities. It is administered by the Area Agency on Aging. It provides some in-home services, respite care or supports like meals on wheels. The Area Agency on Aging provides services by region. Please contact your local Regional office. You can find them under our Real Support Resources.

SOURCE, short for Service Options Using Resources in a Community Environment, is a state plan that serves frail elderly and disabled beneficiaries to improve the health outcomes of persons with chronic health conditions, by linking primary medical care with home and community-based services. It is a primary care case management program administered by the Department of Community Health. You can visit DCH's web site to learn more, <http://dch.georgia.gov>

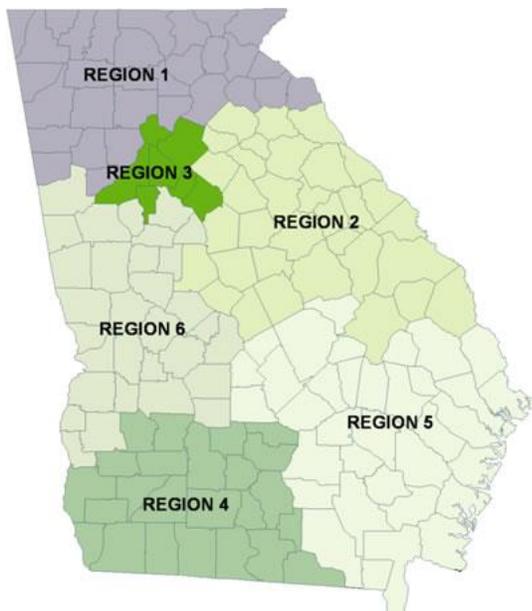
The **Katie Beckett or Deeming Waiver** is an eligibility category for Medicaid, not a home or community-based waiver. It is for children under 18 whose parent's income exceeds the limits required for them to qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The Deeming Waiver takes the parents' income out of the picture and bases the decision on the child's needs. If the child qualifies for the Katie Beckett Waiver, they become eligible for services that are available under the regular state Medicaid plan. A family must first receive a denial letter from Social Security and then they can apply for the Katie Beckett Waiver through their local DFCS Office. For more information on the Katie Beckett Waiver visit <http://www.gcdd.org>

Who is eligible?

Individuals with significant intellectual and/or developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or neurological impairments may be eligible for the NOW or COMP waivers. Individuals with physical disabilities or traumatic brain injury acquired between the ages of 21-64 could be eligible for the ICWP waiver. Individuals need to contact the point of entry appropriate for each waiver.

How do I find out if I am eligible?

To find out if you are eligible for developmental disabilities services, you must submit an application to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and supporting documentation of a developmental disability. Mail the information to your local (DBHDD) Intake and Evaluation Office. To find your local Intake and Evaluation office at <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/>. The Intake and Evaluation office will contact you within 14 days of receipt of your application to make arrangements to conduct a screening in order to make a preliminary eligibility determination. Once the determinations made, a letter will be sent notifying you of your eligibility status.



Region 5 Field Office

DBHDD Region Five Office

1915 Eisenhower Drive
Building 7
Savannah, Georgia 31406
Phone: (912) 303-1670
Fax: (912) 303-1681
Toll Free: (800) 348-3509

For emergency mental health, developmental disability or addictive disease services, call:

Georgia Crisis & Access Line:
1-800-715-4225

For non-emergency developmental disability services, call:

Intake & Evaluation Team
Phone: 912-303-1649
Fax: 912-351-6309

For additional information or assistance with locating resources please contact.

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Resources Used.

Georgia Council for Developmental Disabilities	http://www.gcdd.org
Georgia Department of Community Health	https://dch.georgia.gov
Georgia Department of Education	http://www.gadoe.org
Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities	http://dbhdd.georgia.gov
Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership	http://www.parentmentors.org