

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology may often be considered for children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to help them learn, communicate and function more independently. It can be **Low-Tech**, like picture cards, stop signs or white boards, or more **High-Tech** equipment like iPad, text-to-speech, Smartboards, or augmentative communication devices like a Dynavox. There are several sources where individuals can acquire assistive technology like special education programs and assistive technology companies. To secure a device, the applicant must provide medical evidence of a diagnosis, including a clinician's recommendation for assistive technology. If determined medically necessary, some assistive technology may be covered by health insurance, or even Medicaid.

If deemed academically necessary through a child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), their school district will provide assistive technology during school, and in some cases, for the child to use at home. Parents should always consult with their child's teacher, and/or pediatrician first to assist in the acquisition of assistive technology to support their child's specific needs. Families can learn more information about assistive technology for special education students by going to the Georgia Department of Education's website <https://gpat.gadoe.org/Georgia-Project-for-Assistive-Technology/Pages/default.aspx>

There are also government and nonprofit organizations that provide funding in the form of grants for the acquisition of assistive technology for eligible individuals. There are also organizations that provide assistive technology centers that provide other resources and training.

- [Rural Technology Fund \(ruraltechfund.org\)](http://ruraltechfund.org)
- [Tools for Life \(TFL\) Home | Tools For Life \(gatech.edu\)](http://gatech.edu)
- [AT_Funding_Guide_04.pdf \(rivervalleyaging.org\)](http://rivervalleyaging.org)
- [Assistive Equipment & Technology | State of Georgia ADA Coordinator's Office](http://ada.gadoe.org)
- [Funding | Tools For Life \(gatech.edu\)](http://gatech.edu)
- [Grants | emmas-embassadors \(emmasembassadors.org\)](http://emmasembassadors.org)

Dental Services

1. **Ambrose Pediatric Dentistry**: comprehensive dental services, in-office & hospital treatment options, provides sedation services.
 - **Coverage accepted**: traditional Medicaid, Amerigroup, CareSource, PeachState, private insurance and self-pay.
 - **Location(s)**: **Macon** (478-743-0901), **Forsyth** (478-992-6507), **Warner Robins** (478-200-5874), **Dublin** (478-275-7551), **Greensboro** (706-454-2222)
2. **Athens Dentistry for Children**: comprehensive dental services, provides sedation services.
 - **Coverage accepted**: traditional Medicaid, CareSource, PeachState, private insurance and self-pay. We do not accept Amerigroup.
 - **Location(s)**: **Watkinsville** (706-355-3109)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

3. **Ben Massell Dental Clinic:** comprehensive charitable dental services, provides service to the neediest patients living in the following counties: **Butts, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding & Rockdale.** Only services 25 patients per week. No walk-ins. Please call Monday morning at 9am to speak with an eligibility specialist/scheduler. We do not provide cosmetic and certain major dental work.
 - **Coverage accepted:** Medicare, we do not accept any Medicaid. We accept low-cost, self-pay using a sliding fee, & no-cost service for those at or below 125% of FPL, homeless or unemployed.
 - **Location(s): Atlanta** (404-881-1858)

4. **Children’s Dental Center:** comprehensive dental services, including orthodontics (not covered by Medicaid), provides sedation services.
 - **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid, Amerigroup, CareSource, PeachState, most private insurance and self-pay.
 - **Location(s): Acworth** (770-796-4970), **Cartersville** (770-983-6605), **Rome** (706-622-5046)

5. **Dentistry for the Developmentally Disabled (DDD Foundation):** comprehensive dental services for children and adults, we provide sedation services.
 - **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid. We do not accept Amerigroup, CareSource, PeachState, or PeachCare. We accept some private insurance and self-pay.
 - **Location(s): Atlanta** (404-942-0086)

6. **Healthy Smiles Watkinsville, GA:** comprehensive dental services, including emergency dental surgeries and sedation services (as a last resort).
 - **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid. We do not accept Amerigroup, CareSource, PeachState, or PeachCare. We accept private insurance and self-pay. Non-insured patients can apply for the Healthy Smiles Children’s Dentistry Membership Plan with payments at \$25/mth.
 - **Location(s): Watkinsville** (706-548-7373)
 - **Website:** <https://www.healthysmilesforkidz.com/>

7. **Herrin Pediatric Dentistry:** comprehensive dental services, including emergency dental surgeries and sedation services.
 - **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid, Amerigroup and PeachState. We do not accept CareSource. We accept private insurance and self-pay.
 - **Location(s): 2 locations in Marietta** (678-813-3202) and (678-813-3202).

8. **Kids’ Dental Studio:** comprehensive dental services, including emergency dental surgeries and sedation services (as a last resort). Our dentist has privileges at CHOA.
 - **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid. We accept most private insurance and self-pay with multiple financing options.
 - **Location(s): Atlanta** (470-747-7888)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

9. **North Georgia Pediatric Dentistry:** comprehensive dental services, including emergency dental surgeries and sedation services.
- **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid. We accept Amerigroup, CareSource and PeachState ONLY at our Sugar Hill/Buford office. We also partner with a private anesthesiologist for sedation services (but that provider does NOT accept any Medicaid coverage, including CMOs. If any sedation services are required, they must either be covered through private insurance, or self-pay.
 - **Location(s):** Sugar Hill/Buford (770-965-2340), Braselton (770-965-2340).
 - **Website:** braselton@startlifesmiling.com
10. **Pediatric Dentistry at Vining's:** a full service pediatric dental office located in Smyrna, GA. Our practice specializes in the oral health care needs of infants, toddlers, children, adolescents, and children with special needs. We are committed to providing quality dental care for all children in a fun and compassionate environment.
- **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid and private insurance plans. We don't accept any CMO plans. **We no longer provide sedation services.**
 - **Location:** Smyrna/Vining's (678-305-1090)

Diapers/Incontinence Supplies

11. **180 Medical:** provides incontinence and ostomy products. Offers free delivery and samples.
- **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid and some private insurance.
 - **Phone:** (877-688-2729) or (800-808-4321)
12. **AdaptHealth Patient Care Solutions:** provides incontinence, ostomy, catheter, respiratory and mobility supplies, and equipment. Offers free delivery and samples.
- **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance.
 - **Phone:** (877-771-6690) or (770-426-4310)
13. **Diaper Depot:** diapers and supplies can be purchased directly with the company
- **Coverage accepted:** only accepts NOW/COMP Medicaid waiver using the recipient's fiscal agent as the payer for supplies. All other Medicaid recipients would have to pay privately.
 - **Phone:** (404-297-4900)
14. **KidmedGA:** provides incontinence supplies for children and youth. Offers free delivery and samples.
- **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid, Amerigroup, CareSource, and private insurance. We do not accept PeachState.
 - **Phone:** (678-232-4209) or (770-589-1911)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

- 15. Numotion Medical Supply:** provides incontinence, urological, rehabilitative, mobility and assistive technology supplies and devices for children and adults.
 - **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance.
 - **Phone:** (404-539-4070), (678-392-4202) or (800-500-9150)

- 16. Professional Medical Fulfillment (PMF):** provides incontinence and other medical supplies, as well as nutritional support. Offer free delivery, samples and free returns.
 - **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance and self-pay with budget assistance.
 - **Phone:** (334-275-4512)

- 17. The Pullup Center (Kimberly Clark):** click on the scrolling name brands on the right of the page such as Huggies, Pull-ups, Goodnights, Cottonelle, Kleenex then go to each brand's site. Click on coupon to print coupon for products. Can join digital mailing list and company will e-mail you a coupon every 30 days.
 - **Coverage accepted:** Does not accept Medicaid, Medicare, or insurance. This is solely a discount program that customers can receive coupons from each of the participating diaper companies to use when purchasing products.
 - **Phone:** (800) 990-4448

- 18. S2 Medical:** provides incontinence and urological supplies.
 - **Coverage accepted:** traditional Medicaid, Medicare, CareSource, PeachState, PeachCare and private insurance. We do not accept Amerigroup.
 - **Phone:** (888) 799-3767

- 19. Urostat:** provider of incontinence and urological supplies for children and adults. Works with your doctor and insurer to ensure you have the necessary benefits for which coverage allows. Free shipping and samples.
 - **Coverage accepted:** we accept Medicaid, Medicare, Amerigroup, PeachState, CareSource and private insurance.
 - **Phone:** (888) 845-8698

- 20. United Way 211:** provides contact information on a variety of community services such as free diapers and products by calling 211 on your phone or going to the website and putting your zip code or enter city.

- 21. Medical providers:** contact your pediatrician's office and your local hospitals. They can share with you where you may obtain free diapers and supplies, or even provide coupons for these items.

- 22. Local Food Banks, Churches, Homeless/Women's Shelters & the Salvation Army:** contact these organizations in your local communities as they provide diapers and supplies.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Durable Medical Equipment

23. FAMILIES OF CHILDREN UNDER STRESS (FOCUS) + FRAGILE KIDS– helps children who are medically fragile or have significant developmental and/or physical disabilities. Serves birth – 21 years, must be US citizen. We provide numerous programs from family events, respite, parent support groups, summer day camps, adaptive swimming, social programs for teens and young adults, as well as equipment.

- **Coverage accepted:** We provide transportation and modification grants which you can apply for on our website
- **Phone:** (770) 234-9111

24. FRIENDS OF DISABLED ADULTS AND CHILDREN (FODAC) provides free refurbished and gently used DME, Home Modification, Vehicle Modification, medical supplies for children and adults.

- **Coverage accepted:** our service is free of charge after a lifetime **\$25 charge** is paid. Clients are required to purchase new batteries for power equipment. Clients are also required to pick up equipment in person at the Tucker location.
- **Phone:** (770) 491-9014

25. EASTERSEALS OF NORTH GEORGIA'S CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:

this program provides services for **children with a disability that DO NOT qualify for Medicaid**. Child's application would require the denial letter of eligibility for Medicaid, including Katie Beckett to be considered and approved for Champion for Children.

- **Coverage accepted:** Funding from the program comes in the form of reimbursements to the child's caretaker(s) after medication, medical services, therapies, adaptive equipment, and nutritional support has been procured.
- **Phone:** (866) 584-3742

26. LINCARE: provider of respiratory devices and supports for pediatric patients to ensure seamless transition from hospital discharge to in home care. **Only our Norcross office serves pediatric patients.**

- **Coverage accepted:** we accept Medicare, Medicaid, CareSource, PeachCare, Amerigroup and private insurance.
- **Phone:** (770) 449-6785

Family Connections

Your local Family Connections collaborative consists of several community organizations working together to enhance the lives of families living in their communities. Among some of the services families can obtain from their respective [Family Connection collaborative](#) are housing, food assistance, utility assistance, access to healthcare, etc. To locate your county Family Connection's Collaborative please go to

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Formula/Food

27. EMORY MEDICAL FOODS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Medical Nutrition Therapy for Prevention Program (MNT4P) for inherited metabolic disorders provides temporary coverage of medical foods for patients experiencing financial difficulties in the state of Georgia.

Eligible patients: Typically have no healthcare coverage OR are battling with insurance for coverage of the requested product and do not have access to alternative sources of coverage:

All applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to support MNT4P's purpose of ensuring access to medical foods for individuals in need

- **To be included with application:** Proof of income for all in household, Copy of Medicaid card or letter of Medicaid, Social Security, and/or private insurance denial or amount of coverage, if applicable.
- Optional- Family can also provide a copy of outstanding medical bills.

28. EMORY METABOLIC CAMP- a one-week summer camp on the campus of Emory University for young women, ages 12 and up, who have phenylketonuria (PKU) or maple syrup urine disease (MSUD).

29. HELPING HAND FOR SPECIAL KIDS BY MEAD JOHNSON (Nationwide) - program coordinated by the child's physician, who works with the local Mead Johnson Representative to determine eligibility. The following programs are offered: Enfamil Family Beginnings, Helping Hand for Special Kids Program, Cow's Milk Allergy – The Nutramigen Savings and Support Program, Premature: Join the Drive to Thrive Support Program, Enfamil Multiple Birth Program, and Free Metabolic Starter Case.

30. LINCARE-provider of formula for pediatric patients. **Only our Norcross office serves pediatric patients.**

- **Coverage Accepted:** WE ACCEPT MEDICARE, MEDICAID, CARESOURCE, PEACHCARE, AMERIGROUP AND PRIVATE INSURANCE.
- **Phone:** 770-449-6785

31. EASTERSEALS OF NORTH GEORGIA'S "CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN" PROGRAM-this program provides services for **children with a disability that DO NOT qualify for Medicaid**. Child's application would require the **denial letter of eligibility for Medicaid, including denial letter for Katie Beckett must be submitted to be considered and approved for Champion for Children**. Funding from the program comes in the form of reimbursements to the child's caretaker(s) after medication, medical services, therapies, adaptive equipment, and nutritional support has been procured.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Food Assistance

32. **UNITED WAY (211) FOOD BENEFITS**-dial 211.
33. **FEEDING AMERICA FOOD BANK**: a national clearinghouse of organizations providing nutritional and community resources for low-income individuals and families throughout the United States.
- **Phone:** 800-771-2303
34. **USDA NATIONAL HUNGER HOTLINE**: **Phone:** 1-866-348-6479 or (1-877-842-6273 for **Spanish**). The hotline operates Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM Eastern Time. **Phone:** 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE **Text:** 914-342-7744 using keywords like “food”, “summer”, “meals” to receive an automated response to resources in your community.
35. **FOOD FINDER**: helps SNAP eligible individuals and families find free food resources.
36. **FIND HELP GEORGIA**: access various community resources and free food

FUNDING/INSURANCE

37. **CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN**- Families of medically fragile and special needs children across Georgia are now able to apply for and receive direct financial assistance and support services from a state-wide nonprofit collaborative to help cover the costs of caring for their children at home. **Phone:** 1-866-584-3742 **Eligibility:** Have applied for Katie Beckett and received a level of care denial
- Children: ages 2 to 18
 - Lives at home
 - Have a physical, cognitive, developmental or medical disability
- ***Current Medicaid recipients are not eligible for this program*****
37. **FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs)**- provide primary healthcare services (mostly for the adolescents with no insurance/low or no income) after they age out of Medicaid and provides patient assistance programs for some medications. Locate your nearest FQHC here: <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>
38. **INDIGENT CARE TRUST FUND**: to expand Medicaid eligibility and services, support rural and other health care providers, primarily hospitals, which serve the medically indigent, and fund primary health care programs for medically indigent Georgians. The ICTF is an umbrella program which contains the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program, nursing home provider fees, Care Management Organization (CMO) Quality Assessment Fees; Breast Cancer Tag Fees, ambulance rates and other uninsured/indigent initiatives. With ICTF funding, even uninsured people who do not qualify for Medicaid may receive health care from participating hospitals.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

39. **THE GEORGIA CHARITABLE CARE NETWORK**- serves uninsured people in local clinics.
40. **UNITED HEALTHCARE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION**: Child Medical Grants- help families pay for children's medical expenses not covered, or not fully covered, by a commercial health insurance plan (**Private through employer or purchased individually; Medicaid/Medicare/SCHIP and all subsidized health insurance programs excluded**). To be eligible for a grant, children must be 16 years of age or younger. Families must meet economic guidelines, reside in the United States, and have a commercial health insurance plan. Grants are available for medical expenses families have incurred 60 days prior to the date of application as well as for ongoing and future medical needs. Families do not need to have insurance through United Healthcare to be eligible. **Phone:** 1-855-698-4223.
41. **FAMILY SPPORT SERVICES**: a non-entitlement program that brokers disability-specific services based on the unique needs of individuals and their families. We provide our services with the belief that families belong together, and individuals are best served in a community setting. Our goal is to maintain a cohesive family unit while helping individuals live at home in the community. These supports meet every day needs that are often critical in avoiding family crises.
42. **GEORGIA STABLE**: a voluntary investment program for eligible, disabled Georgians receiving benefits such as SSI and Medicaid. The program allows individuals to achieve greater financial independence and stability by maintaining savings accounts without the risk of losing their governmental benefits. STABLE account holders are allowed to make deposits and withdrawals from these accounts, access their accounts with debit cards and use the funds in their accounts for daily living expenses
43. **INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR DISADVANTAGE & DISABILITY: THE KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM**: provides support for family members other than parents who are caring for children they're related to such as grandparents, relatives and foster parents. Caregivers will be assigned a Kinship Navigator to help them acquire the appropriate resources necessary to care for the child(ren) temporarily in their care
44. **MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION OF AMERICA**: provides grants to children with life-threatening medical conditions with amazing life experiences and celebrations.
45. **STARLIGHT**: supports medically fragile children to heal through joyful, positive experiences while recovering during long-term hospitalized stays
46. **BERT'S BIG ADVENTURE**: provides all-expense paid trips to Walt Disney World and other life experiences for chronically & terminally ill children and their families.
<https://bertsbigadventure.org/about-us/our-mission/>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

- 47. SPECIALLY GIFTED FOUNDATION:** Georgia-based charity that provides funding to families of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families by enriching their lives based on families' requests of vacations, medical services, DME, etc.
- 48. KATIE BECKETT (TEFRA) MEDICAID DEEMING WAIVER:** a program for Medicaid eligible children with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities that meet an institutional level of care comparable to that provided in a hospital, nursing home or intermediate skilled nursing facility. Children with Katie Beckett Medicaid may have part of their family's monthly premium's private insurance plan reimbursed to them if the state deems it cost effective to do so. A specific formula is used by the State of Georgia to determine if it would be cost effective to reimburse their private insurance plan's monthly premium. Not everyone receiving Katie Beckett will be approved for this benefit called the **Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (HIPPP)**. If a family is denied **HIPPP**, they may still be eligible to have a portion of their monthly premium reimbursed under the **Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization program (CHIPRA)** but eligibility is still not a guarantee as the state will still need to determine if it's cost effective to pay the reimbursement.
- 49. GEORGIA PEDIATRIC PROGRAM (GAPP)**-a program for Medicaid eligible medically fragile children in Georgia under the age of 21 meeting an institutional medical level of care equivalent to that of a skilled nursing care facility (SNF).

Caregivers of the medically fragile child interested in receiving services through the Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP) must apply via a nursing agency participating in the children's program, visit the [Parent to Parent of Georgia Special Needs Database](#) for a list of GAPP providers. Members seeking services may also contact the GAPP Program Specialist at (404) 683-5113 or send a request to GAPP.inquiries@dch.ga.gov

- 50. NEW OPTION & COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTS MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAMS (NOW/COMP):** a program for Medicaid eligible individuals that meet both **(1)** institutional level of care requirements **and** are considered by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to be **(2) "Most in Need"** of either a NOW or COMP waiver at the time of application, or if they've exhausted all other community resources available to them. Some applicants who apply may be determined eligible for meeting the level of care requirement, but if they do not meet the Most in Need requirement at the time of application, they will be placed on the **"Planning List"** until they meet eligibility. Planning list applicants typically are individuals under the age of 22. To learn more about the NOW/COMP and other Medicaid waivers like SOURCE, CCSP, etc [Apply to New Option Waiver Program \(NOW\) and Comprehensive Support Waiver Program \(COMP\) | Georgia.gov, Waiver Programs | Georgia Medicaid](#)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

51. **GEORGIA PATHWAYS:** a state program that offers Medicaid coverage to low-income Georgians who wouldn't typically be eligible under another form of Medicaid. Eligible Georgians must meet certain requirements based on income and other qualifying criteria such as employment, residency, community service, job training and higher education activities.
52. **GEORGIA ACCESS:** the state's insurance portal for individuals who need to apply for health insurance coverage through a variety of health insurance providers, Medicaid and Healthcare.gov.

HEARING IMPAIRED & ASL SERVICES

53. **GEORGIA ADA COORDINATOR'S OFFICE:** serves as a clearinghouse of services and resources for disabled individuals and caregivers. **Phone:** 404-657-7313 **TTY:** 800-255-0056 **VOICE:** 800-255-0135
54. **GEORGIA CENTER OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING (GCDHH):** provides resources for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, including employment resources, the Ga. Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program and other information on hearing loss. **Phone:** (800) 541-0710
55. **GEORGIA RELAY (Georgia TDD/TTY) DIAL 711:** free service provided by the State of Georgia for individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing to use telecommunications. GA Relay is provided by the Georgia Public Service Commission
56. **MIRACLE EAR CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION:** must have a hearing loss that requires amplification, in a family with an income level that does allow the family to receive public support. Application process.
57. **STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION:** formerly known as Hear Now Program) –Provides hearing aid assistance to those living in the US and globally. Also has a hearing aid recycling program.
58. **THE AUDITORY-VERBAL CENTER, INC:** a non-profit organization offering comprehensive Auditory-Verbal therapy and a full-service Audiology & Hearing Aid Clinic. Serves infants and adults and **offers tele-therapy for those that cannot make the drive.**
- **Coverage accepted:** Medicaid, CareSource, Amerigroup, PeachState for children under age 22, private insurance and ONLY Medicare for individuals 65 & older.
 - **Location in Atlanta:** 1875 Century Blvd., Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30345
Phone: 404-633-8911 **(English)** 470-355-3869 **(Spanish);**
 - **Location in Macon:** 277 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd, Ste 104 Macon, GA 31201 Drive
Phone: 478-741-0019 **(English)** 470-355-3869 **(Spanish)**
59. **CLEAR CAPTIONS:** a national service for individuals with hearing loss that provides a **free** phone with caption capability on a large screen. The service for the phone is completely free to those who qualify, and a Clear Captions specialist will install the phone and train on how to use it for free, as well. <https://clearcaptions.com/> **Phone:** 1-866-399-0534

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

60. Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (AASD)

A state of Georgia school established in 1972, AASD is devoted to providing quality, comprehensive, full-day instructional services to infants, children, and youth who are deaf, including persons with multiple disabilities. Classroom programs range from Pre-K through 12. Students experience a range of academic, vocational, and social activities.

Phone: (404) 296-7101

61. Atlanta Speech School

Established in 1938, the Atlanta Speech School is a comprehensive center for language and literacy. Our four schools, five clinics, summer programs and professional development center all share one common mission: to work within each program and collaborate across all programs to help each person develop his or her full potential through language and literacy.

Phone: (404) 233-5332

62. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA)

CHOA offers auditory verbal therapy for children with hearing loss. Through auditory-verbal therapy, children with mild through profound hearing loss may become independent, contributing citizens in a regular learning and living environment. The approach uses a guiding set of principles to maximize the use of hearing devices and residual sound.

Phone: (404)785-7100

63. Columbus Speech & Hearing Center

Columbus Speech & Hearing Center provides diagnostic and rehabilitative audiology, speech-language pathology and neuro-psychological services. Their dedicated staff works together to provide the highest quality care in a professional, comfortable, nurturing environment.

Phone: (706) 324-6112

64. Georgia Hearing Aid Dispatch – A Program of the Georgia Charitable Care Network

In 2022, the Georgia Public Service Commission awarded the Georgia Charitable Care Network the contract to serve as the administrator of the Hearing Aid Distribution Program. The program, funded by the Public Service Commission, provides hearing aids to low-income Georgia residents. GCCN will coordinate the care referrals between the patients, audiologists and hearing aid manufacturers, providing great service to all. **Phone:** 888-551-1231

65. Georgia Hands & Voices Chapter

The Georgia Hands & Voices Chapter is dedicated to supporting Georgia families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. Hands & Voices is a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Outreach activities, parent professional collaboration, and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf and Hard of Hearing children to reach their highest potential.

Phone: (678) 310-5886

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

66. Georgia Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program

Georgia Hands & Voices™ Guide By Your Side™ (GBYS) is a family support program that embodies the mission of Hands & Voices, which is to provide support and resources in an unbiased manner to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). GBYS does this with specially trained parents of children with deafness or hearing loss who work as “guides” directly with families who have just learned their child cannot hear, or who have older children and are in need of the unique family support.

67. Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services (PINES)

Statewide program funded by the Georgia DOE, providing free family training home visits and visits in natural environments for families of children, birth to five years of age, with hearing/vision loss to develop auditory, speech, and language skills. Georgia PINES also provides loaner hearing aids, occupational and physical therapy, parent workshops, and collaborates with other agencies.

Phone: (404) 298-4882

68. Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

The Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf endeavors to promote initiatives to further the profession of Sign Language Interpreting through a statewide alliance of professional interpreters, students of the profession, and consumers of interpreting services.

69. Georgia School for the Deaf (GSD)

For more than 160 years, GSD has provided for the educational, social, and emotional needs of Georgia’s deaf and hard-of-hearing children. GSD is a residential school. **Phone:** (800) 497-3371 or (706) 777-2200

70. Georgia Sensory Assistance Project (GSAP)

GSAP provides technical assistance to children with deaf or blindness, from birth through 21 years of age, and to their families and service providers. Technical assistance may include in-home consultation, school consultation, family support, networking, demonstration site development, in-services, weekend retreats, summer institutes, loaner bank, material and monograph development, statewide advisory program, referrals to other agencies, and resources.

71. Savannah Speech and Hearing Center

The Savannah Speech and Hearing Center provides comprehensive services to people of all ages with speech, language, and/or hearing problems without regard to financial status. The center offers a program, specific for children with hearing impairment, Sound Start. The Sound Start program provides an option for families and their child(ren) with hearing loss to develop the ability to learn to listen, speak and understand spoken language in order to be successful in a mainstream educational setting. Any child with a hearing loss affecting speech and language development is eligible for the school. **Phone:** (912) 355-4601

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

VISUALLY IMPAIRED SERVICES

- 72. GEORGIA ADA COORDINATOR'S OFFICE:** serves as a clearinghouse of services and resources for disabled individuals and caregivers. **Phone:** 404-657-7313 **TTY:** 800-255-0056 **VOICE:** 800-255-0135
- 73. INFANT SEE**- is a public health program designed to ensure that eye and vision care becomes an integral part of infant wellness care to improve a child's quality of life. Participating member optometrists will provide a no-cost comprehensive infant eye and vision assessment within the first year of life. Site allows you to search local participants. Toll Free:(888) 396-EYES (3937) or . **Phone:** (314) 983-4160 **www.infantsee.org**
- 74. VISION TO LEARN:** operates mobile clinics to provide free vision screening, eye exams and glasses to school-aged children. **No insurance or other health coverage is required.** VTL is a statewide provider of its services; however, where they work does depend on if they have funding. Counties we've provided services to so far are Atkinson, Brantley, Clayton, Clinch, Cobb, Dekalb, Floyd, Fulton, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Stephens and Warren. We have expanded our services to also include Glascock, Polk, Jefferson, Taliaferro, McDuffie, and Troup. **https://visiontolearn.org/ To learn how to acquire assistance for your child, please contact their school district to see if they're currently working with VTL and have scheduled a mobile clinic for their school. Mobile clinics are typically held at schools and libraries.**
- 75. CENTER FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED:** Provider of vision examination and services for children ages 5-21 throughout 28 counties in the Metropolitan Atlanta area. For children under the age of 3, CVI refers patients to Babies Can't Wait and Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services (PINES). Also provides independent living instruction, orientation & mobility, technology skills, braille tutoring and IEP support. **WE ACCEPT MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND PRIVATE INSURANCE.** If the child has **AMERIGROUP, CARESOURCE OR PEACHSTATE**, CVI will verify the CMO is active, work with the family and offer financial assistance for services. **Upon approval for financial assistance, the patient will have a copay.** **https://cviga.org/youth-services/**
- 76. PREVENT BLINDNESS GEORGIA:** charitable organization that provides vouchers for eligible children and adults needing eyeglasses and vision services through its HealthyEyes Access to Eyeglasses Program, its Star Pupils Children's Program and its Vision Outreach Adult Program. Candidates will need to complete an application and submit income verification. **https://georgia.preventblindness.org, Phone:** 404-266-1548

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

- 77. CAM'S VISION:** charitable organization that supports the needs of individuals who are vision impaired/blind while encouraging them to become independent, productive members of their communities. Participants in the program can attend a summer camp and other age-related activities with their sightedness peers. Parents/caregivers can receive educational advocacy training and direct support for their children's Individual Educational Plan (IEP)
<https://camsvision.org> Phone: 770-598-6669
- 78. GEORGIA LIONS LIGHTHOUSE:** the only statewide provider of comprehensive vision and hearing services to underinsured Georgians, providing eyeglasses, exams, surgeries, and hearing aids to people of all ages. **Phone: 404-325-3630**

HOUSING OPTIONS

Housing continues to be a challenge for individuals with disabilities. However, there are options that exist supported by government agencies and social organizations within local communities. As there are too many to list within each county in Georgia, we recommend families start with their **local churches, charitable nonprofits, single women's shelters, and city government housing assistance offices, more commonly referred to as housing authorities**. Housing authorities acquire the bulk of their funding through the **U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**. Most cities in Georgia have a housing authority office where families can apply for subsidized housing assistance in one of the Authority's apartment housing developments, or for public housing vouchers through the authorities' formerly known Section 8 programs, allowing low-income families with children the opportunity to rent single family homes in neighborhoods. **To locate your local housing authority office in Georgia:**
https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PHA_Contact_Report_GA.pdf

Homeless individuals can qualify for several benefits such as rental assistance up to 3 months, assistance with their utility bills and even assistance with rental deposits and food. At the federal level, there is the **Housing Urban Development's (HUD) 811 PRA Mainstream program which provides permanent housing options for adults with disabilities ages 18-61 who can't live independently and would be at risk for homelessness without this option.**

Other federal housing options include **tenant-based housing, a voucher program** that allows the voucher to travel with the tenant should they decide to move to another community, and **project-based housing** which, like public housing authorities, allow individuals and families the opportunity to live in public housing developments.

Homeless individuals and families can also reach out to state offices like the **Georgia Department of Community Affairs** office inquiring of the **Georgia Housing Voucher Program, Rental Assistance, Emergency Shelter and the Rapid Rehousing programs**. The **Georgia Department of Community Affairs** can be contacted at 404-679-4840, **<https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/rental-housing-assistance>**. Families can also contact their local **United Way** for shelter and housing options by simply calling 211. There they'll be able to get a list of local community organizations that offer a variety of housing options.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

United Way 211 Atlanta offers a link for families living in **Atlanta, Athens and Augusta** to contact local shelters in their areas: <https://211online.unitedwayatlanta.org/MatchList.aspx?c;;0;;N;0;0;Shelter/Housing;Shelters;306;Community%20Shelters~>.

The American Red Cross also is an option for those experiencing homeless due to environmental disasters caused by fires or storm damage. The **Salvation Army** also provides housing throughout the United States in shelters, including hotel stays and in the form of rental assistance. Many of these nonprofit and governmental agencies may also provide case management services until individuals and families find permanent housing.

GEORGIA COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DATABASE: community resources for housing assistance and other supports for the following:

- Rental assistance
- School districts have rental assistance resources for families experiencing homelessness
- Emergency preparedness & recovery resources
- Fair housing resources
- Family assistance
- Elderly resources
- Homeless resources
- Veteran resources
- Domestic violence shelters
- Legal resources
- Other resources
- [Find Help Georgia](#)- Housing & Goods section
- [Housing Expenses](#)
 - <https://www.georgiahousingsearch.org/CommunityResources.html>

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

79. GEORGIA LEGAL AID: cost of legal services determined based on the household size and income of residents living in Fulton, Clayton, Cobb, Gwinnet and Dekalb Counties. <https://www.georgialegalaid.org> Georgia residents living in other counties can obtain legal assistance by calling

80. GEORGIA LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM: offering a variety of free and low-cost legal services for Georgia residents in 154 counties outside of Metro Atlanta. <https://www.georgialegalaid.org/organization/georgia-legal-services-program-13>

81. GEORGIA ADVOCACY OFFICE: provides legal services to Georgians with significant disabilities and their families. <https://thegao.org/>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

MENTAL HEALTH/EDUCATION

82. **DISABILITY IS NATURAL:** a website of over 200 articles about attitudes on disabilities, parenting a disabled child, IEP, transition, some articles in Spanish. **Phone:** 210-320-0678
83. **GEORGIA HOPE:** Providing quality, in-home counseling services to those children & adults in Northwest Georgia with Georgia Medicaid or no insurance. **Phone:** (706) 279-0405; or **Phone:** (706) 279-0405
84. **GEORGIA CRISIS LINE:** provides 24/7 hours of support for telephonic service crisis intervention, dispatching mobile emergency services, assisting callers in finding open crisis or detoxification in-patient services and referrals for additional supports. **Phone:** 1 800-715-4225
85. **GEORGIA ADA COORDINATOR'S OFFICE:** serves as a clearinghouse of services and resources for disabled individuals and caregivers **Phone:** 404-657-7313 **TTY:** 800-255-0056 **VOICE:** 800-255-0135
86. **NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS OF GEORGIA (NAMI):** has resources for coping with the mental illness of a family member. Well researched information is available on a wide variety of mental illnesses and families can find support groups in their communities. Some support groups are offered for Spanish speaking families as well. **Phone:** 770-234-0855
87. **PARENT TO PARENT OF GEORGIA:** offers a variety of services to Georgia families impacted by disabilities or special healthcare needs. **Phone:** 770-451-5484 **Toll Free:** 800-229-2038
88. **THE GEORGIA COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:** has resources for individuals with developmental disabilities of all kinds. "Guardianship, Conservatorship and Alternatives" and the "Legal Options Manual" are two guides for families considering what a child may need as they transition to adulthood. *Making a Difference* magazine (available on their web site) is a great way for families to stay up-to-date on legislation and programs affecting those with developmental disabilities anywhere in Ga. These are just two of the many resources they offer. **Phone:** 404-657-2126
89. **PROJECT F.R.E.E.:** provide skills for parents, single/married/coupled, to discover new ways to manage stress and create healthy family relationships. Programs are free and participants may receive stipends/incentives for participation. Past initiatives only included the following counties: Clarke, Elbert, Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Barrow, Jackson, Walton, Newton, Greene, Morgan and Rockdale. PROJECT F.R.E.E. is working with other community partners that have allowed it to support families in other counties throughout Georgia.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

90. **GOODRX:** Free site to search the lowest prices on prescription medications in your area. Printable coupons to receive discount price at local pharmacy. Offers free app for mobile device as well.
91. **GOOD PILL:** Georgia nonprofit that provides over 450 low cost medications to individuals who have no insurance, or are under insured. Customers can have their doctors or existing pharmacies to submit their scripts via electronically or fax. Good Pill does not carry opioids, narcotics, test strips or insulin.
92. **MEDLINE PLUS:** Resource for researching medications
93. **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR RARE DISORDERS (NORD):** patient assistant programs such as medication assistance and premium and co-pay assistance.
94. **NEEDY MEDS:** a national non-profit organization that maintains a website of free information on programs that help people who can't afford medications and healthcare costs. Needy meds provides a free discount drug card to be used at the pharmacy. No registration fee, no income guidelines, anyone can use the card.
95. **NOVO NORDISK PATIENT ASSISTANCE:** provides medication to qualifying applicants living with diabetes at no charge.
96. **OPTUM RX (WALMART):** offers some free preventative care medications under benefit plans.
97. **PARTNERSHIP FOR PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE:** free service to connect with uninsured or underinsured people with free or reduced prescription medications through existing programs. Site is in English or Spanish.
98. **PUBLIX:** no longer offers a free medication program since March 2022. Publix does offer some maintenance medications and antibiotics with a valid prescription for \$7.50. Publix partners with **SingleCare** and customers can use their **SingleCare** prescription card to get discounts on medications up to 80%.
99. **RX ASSIST:** offers a comprehensive database of patient assistance programs and a free prescription savings card.
100. **Rx OUTREACH:** a non-profit pharmacy whose mission is to provide affordable medications.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

- 101. RX SPECIALTY SERVICE INC:** reduced prices on prescription medications, medications are mailed to you.
- 102. SOLVAY PHARMACEUTICALS INC PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:**
Assistance program that offers a three-month supply of medications for those who are eligible. Eligibility based on income, must not have insurance, must be US citizen. Meds include Creon DR, Aceon, Andro Gel, Estratest, Estratest HS, Prometrium

RECREATION

- 103. CAMP TWIN LAKES:** collaborates with a diverse group of Camp Partners in order to provide programs and opportunities for children with serious illnesses, disabilities and other challenges.
- 104. METRO EAST GLRS:** the Georgia Learning Resources System is a network of regional programs providing training and resources for school districts and families of children with disabilities.

SERVICE DOGS

DISCLAIMER: Between the application process and receiving a service dog could take up to 2 years. Most of the suppliers that donate dogs free of charge have long wait lists, and most trained dogs are at least 2 years old before they are paired with a handler (i.e., the applicant). If you're needing a service dog sooner, you may consider purchasing your dog. The rates for certified service dogs range between \$15,000-\$20,000. Some suppliers will offer financial assistance, and many families start GoFundMe pages to support their purchase of a service dog. Another option that could lower your cost so you may acquire a certified service dog sooner, is to seek suppliers that offer training programs for an applicant that already owns a dog. Training dogs that already have owners could significantly lower the cost of securing a service dog. The list below is suppliers that provide service dogs free of cost to approved individuals, and those that train and sell service dogs.

- 105. 4 PAWS FOR ABILITY, INC:** dogs are trained and places over 120 trained, service dogs to support the complex needs of disabled children and adults. Applications can be found on the website. There is a waitlist to receive a dog.
- 106. CANINE ASSISTANTS: (LOCAL)** created to assist disabled individuals through specific programs. We provide and train service dogs for specific disabilities. We do not provide service dogs for emotional support, autism spectrum disorder, psychiatric service needs, guide dogs or signal (hearing) assistance. Please make sure to read our preliminary application requirements as non-eligible applications will not be considered. There is a waitlist to receive a dog.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

- 107. CANINE COMPANIONS:** train and provides dogs as service dogs, facility dogs, veteran support, and therapy dogs. Our dogs support the needs of children (must be at least 5 years old), adults and veterans. We are a national organization, so you'll likely work with one of our regional chapters that will be responsible for training and providing your dog. There is a waitlist to receive a dog. Dogs are at least 2 years old before their matched to an approved candidate.
- 108. DULEBOHN DOG TRAINING:** serves the needs of families with disabled loved ones who own a dog that requires specialized training to support their complex daily living needs. We offer 3 types of training programs via puppy training classes, residency programs and private lessons where we train your dog based on your specific needs. Our staff possess 30 years of experience and are Master Trainers and behaviorists with clients all over the world. The founder of Dulegohn Dog Training is also Director of Training with 4 Paws for Ability.
- 109. GUIDE DOG FOUNDATION:** donates guide/seeing eye dogs for legally blind individuals 16 years and older. If accepted all services are free including travel. Lodging and lifetime aftercare support services. For Georgia residents, you'll likely be paired with a dog from UGA which has one of the largest puppy raising programs in the country.
- 110. GUARDIAN ANGELS MEDICAL SERVICE DOGS:** provides service dogs through donation. If an applicant is approved for a dog they'll need to provide their own transportation to Williston, FL to be paired with a dog. There is a waitlist.
- 111. HIGHLAND CANINE SERVICE DOGS: (LOCAL)** primarily trains dogs for service certification. Dogs can be trained and purchased based on a customer's needs. Most of their dogs are trained for and sold to military and law enforcement agencies. We also trained and sell dogs to support daily, long-term needs of disabled individuals. There are several dog training locations throughout Atlanta: Marietta, Kennesaw, Woodstock, Acworth, Roswell, Sandy Springs, Alpharetta, Canton, Jasper, East Cobb and Ball Ground
- 112. PAWS FOR LIFE: (LOCAL)** provides support for children, adults and veterans requiring service dogs and trains them to work for the needs of the client. Also trains dogs that are already owned by a family. Will assists family with fundraising to lower the cost of purchasing a service dog.
- 113. PILOT DOGS:** provides **seeing eye/guide dogs** to visually impaired and legally blind individuals 16 years old and older. If accepted to the program, applicant receives a guide dog free of charge.
- 114. ROVER CHASE FOUNDATION:** supports the independence of individuals with disabilities and to facilities like hospitals by providing highly trained service dogs to them.
- 115. SD GUNNER FUND: (LOCAL)** created to assist Veterans and disabled children with the financial expense of owning much needed service animals.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR GA FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

116. [TAO K9 UNLEASHED: \(LOCAL\)](#) provides training for dogs needing to be certified as service/therapy dogs. They also operate a rescue where dogs can be fostered or adopted.
117. [ASSISTANCE DOGS INTERNATIONAL](#)-global authority in assistance dogs industry. Provides a global search tool for consumers seeking service dogs.

TRANSPORTATION

MEDICAID TRANSPORTION: Non-Emergency Medical Transportation available to Georgia Medicaid members needing access to health services and do not have a transportation option. To be eligible for these services, members must have no other means of transportation available and are only transported to those medical services covered under the Medicaid program. Call to schedule 3 working days prior to scheduled appt. Calls are taken from 7 am – 6 pm Mon – Fri.

- a. [VERIDA \(formerly known as Southeastrans\)](#): 1-866-388-9844 (North) and 404-209-4000 (Atlanta)
- b. [Modivcare Transportation of Georgia \(formerly known as Logisticare\)](#):
- **Central Region:** Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Butts, Carroll, Clayton, Coweta, Dodge, Fayette, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Meriwether, Monroe, Newton, Pike, Putnam, Rockdale, Spalding, Telfair, Troup, Twiggs and Wilkinson **Phone: 1-888-224-7981**
 - **East Region:** Appling, Bacon, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clarke, Columbia, Effingham, Elbert, Emanuel, Evans, Glascock, Glynn, Greene, Hancock, Hart, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Liberty, Lincoln, Long, Madison, McDuffie, McIntosh, Montgomery, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Pierce, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Tattnall, Toombs, Treutlen, Ware, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wheeler and Wilkes **Phone: 1-888-224-7988**
 - **Southwest Region:** Atkinson, Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Clay, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Cook, Crawford, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Harris, Houston, Irwin, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marion, Miller, Mitchell, Muscogee, Peach, Pulaski, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Seminole, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner, Upson, Webster, Wilcox and Worth **Phone: 1-888-224-7985**