TRANSITION
MANUAL

A Guide for Parents

DeKalb Interagency Transition Planning Council
The DeKalb Interagency Transition Planning Council is composed of members of the following agencies:

- DeKalb County School District
- Georgia Department of Education Region 3 DBHDD Board
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Parent Representatives
- Other Public and Private Adult Service Agencies

Transition Manual Committee:

- Dr. Gwen Allen
- Sally Atwell
- Andrea Lester
- Gail Mitchell
- Jamie Shailer
- Sharon Smith
- Jennifer Witherspoon

Members of the DeKalb Interagency Planning Council cannot recommend or endorse individuals or agencies in this manual. It is meant to be a resource guide to assist you and your family with transition from school to the adult world. Use this guide to investigate which options can best meet the needs of your child and family members. Every effort
has been made to ensure that the information contained in the manual is accurate. Please confirm the information with each agency since changes can occur after the manual has been updated.

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INTRODUCTION

Confused? Are you anxious about your son’s or daughter’s future? Many parents worry about the time when their son or daughter will no longer attend school. Those who plan for this change from student to adult life are faced with a confusing maze of services and options. All of this may seem overwhelming. There is help!

When is the best time to prepare for entry into adult life? There is no set time, but many experts agree that it is never too early to teach responsibility, independence, and a good work ethic. Serious planning should begin during the teen years for a smooth transition from school to adult service agencies.

This manual was put together as a guide for parents. The list of resources along with the question and answer section will be helpful in locating appropriate services. It must be noted that this manual is ONLY a resource. The choices are yours; therefore, it is the parents’ responsibility to examine resources that may meet their child’s own abilities, needs, and potentials.

Further, in serving the population with special needs, the importance of advocacy cannot be stated strongly enough. The Interagency Transition Planning Council encourages and applauds parental involvement in this process. Please commit now to becoming informed and involved. You may find the ‘Support Services’ and ‘Web Sites’ especially helpful.
ACRONYMS AND INITIALS
ARE WE SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE?

The following is a list of acronyms or initials often used when dealing with school systems, state, and federal agencies. You may hear these initials used and feel lost. This list will help you understand the language of the school system and various agencies.

AADD: ALL ABOUT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
A & D: ALCOHOL & DRUGS
ABA: APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS
ABI: ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
AFDC: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN
APS: ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
BD: BEHAVIOR DISORDER
BEH. SPEC.: BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST
C & A: CHILD & ADOLESCENT PROGRAM
CAC: CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
CBI: COMMUNITY-BASED INSTRUCTION
CBVI: COMMUNITY-BASED VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTION
CBVT: COMMUNITY-BASED VOCATIONAL TRAINING
COMP: COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTS WAIVER
CMI: CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL
CSH: CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL
CTR: CENTER
DBHDD: DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDOE</td>
<td>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLRS</td>
<td>GEORGIA LEARNING RESOURCES SYSTEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMCF</td>
<td>GEORGIA MEDICAL CARE FOUNDATION</td>
</tr>
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<td>GRH</td>
<td>GEORGIA REGIONAL HOSPITAL</td>
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<td>HB</td>
<td>HOUSE BILL</td>
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<td>HCBS</td>
<td>HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>HOUSE RESOLUTION</td>
</tr>
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<td>HRST</td>
<td>HEALTH RISK SCREENING TOOL</td>
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<td>HOSPITAL</td>
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<td>I &amp; E</td>
<td>INTAKE AND EVALUATION TEAM</td>
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<td>ID</td>
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<td>IEP</td>
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<td>IFSP</td>
<td>INDIVIDUAL FAMILY SERVICE PLAN</td>
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<td>IGR</td>
<td>INDIVIDUAL GROUP RESIDENCE</td>
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<td>IPP</td>
<td>INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM PLAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>IQ</td>
<td>INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT</td>
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<td>ISP</td>
<td>INDIVIDUAL SERVICE PLAN</td>
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<td>ISVT</td>
<td>IN-SCHOOL VOCATIONAL TRAINING</td>
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<td>ITP</td>
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<td>IWRE</td>
<td>IMPAIRMENT WORK-RELATED EXPENSE</td>
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<td>LTSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>MENTAL AGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAO</td>
<td>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ONLY</td>
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<td>MARC</td>
<td>METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RESPITE COOPERATIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHDDAD</td>
<td>MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, ADDICTIVE DISEASES</td>
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<td>MID</td>
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<td>MID-I</td>
<td>MILD INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY-INDEPENDENT LIVING</td>
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<td>MODERATE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY</td>
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<td>MTR</td>
<td>MODERATE TRAINING RESIDENCE</td>
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<td>NOW</td>
<td>NEW OPTIONS WAIVER</td>
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<td>OI</td>
<td>ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED</td>
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<td>OJE</td>
<td>ON THE JOB EVALUATION</td>
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<td>OT</td>
<td>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST</td>
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<td>PAC</td>
<td>PARENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>PASS</td>
<td>PLAN TO ACHIEVE SELF-SUPPORT</td>
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<td>PEPP</td>
<td>PARENTS EDUCATING PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS</td>
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<td>PID</td>
<td>PROFOUND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY</td>
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<td>PLA</td>
<td>PLANNING LIST ADMINISTRATOR</td>
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<td>PT</td>
<td>PHYSICAL THERAPIST</td>
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<td>RVI</td>
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<td>SE</td>
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<td>SID</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIS</td>
<td>SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE</td>
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<td>SLA</td>
<td>SEMI-INDEPENDENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT</td>
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<td>SLP</td>
<td>SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST</td>
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<td>SENATE RESOLUTION</td>
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<td>SSA</td>
<td>SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION</td>
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<td>SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME</td>
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<td>SSN</td>
<td>SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER</td>
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<td>TANF</td>
<td>TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE/NEEDY FAMILIES</td>
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<td>TSP</td>
<td>TRANSITION SERVICE PLAN</td>
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<td>UCP</td>
<td>UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY</td>
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<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>VISUALLY IMPAIRED</td>
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<tr>
<td>VR</td>
<td>VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIA</td>
<td>WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (FORMERLY JTPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIC</td>
<td>WOMEN, INFANTS, &amp; CHILDREN</td>
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**TRANSITION SERVICE PLAN: AN EXPLANATION**
The Transition Service Plan (TSP) [formerly known as the Individual Transition Plan, ITP] serves as a guide to assist the student, the family, the school, and community service agencies to formulate a plan that will assist with transition from school to adult life. It is important to understand that school is an entitlement program for school-aged children. Entitlement means that all children are eligible to receive a free and appropriate education within the public school system. Adult programs have their own eligibility requirements. Most of these programs can and do maintain waiting lists.

The purpose of transition is to assist students with disabilities to build the skills and supports they need to successfully reach their post-school goals. The 2004 reauthorization of the Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004) changed transition services to a “resultsoriented process” that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child. IDEA also requires the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to include “appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and where appropriate independent living.” The state rules for special education require that transition plans be in place prior to the student entering ninth grade or by age 16, whichever comes first. The transition plan drives the content of the rest of the IEP. There should be a clear and direct relationship between a student’s transition goals and the other IEP goals and objectives. Transition requires support from multiple sources for the student and his/her family to make choices, develop connections, and access services.

(From: Georgia Department of Education, Transition Manual, February 2008)

### Transition Planning

**Time-Line for Life Skills Specialization**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Age/Grade</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Person Responsible</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>15/8th</em></td>
<td>Complete vocational assessments: Student-Parent Transition Questionnaire and the Checklist of Adaptive Living Skills (CALS) PRIOR to meeting to develop the initial Transition Service Plan (TSP)</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**15/8th** Hold IEP meeting to develop initial TSP to be reviewed and updated annually  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Write statement indicating preferences, strengths and interests based on transition assessments  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Develop Measurable Post-Secondary goals based on age appropriate transition assessments and present levels of performance. Goals must be stated for the areas of Education/Training, Employment and Independent Living.  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Determine course of study  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Discuss and determine diploma type  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Consider graduation date  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Develop measurable transition goals and objectives in all areas  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Age/Grade</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Person Responsible</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Identify vocational support needed</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Consider guardianship</td>
<td>Parent/Guardian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Inform student and parent that the student’s educational rights will transfer to him/her at age 18</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age/Grade</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Person Responsible</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Obtain official Georgia Identification Card (Georgia Department of Driver Services)</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Continue to provide instruction to address vocational interests/abilities/education and independent living based on continual transition assessments</td>
<td>Parent/Guardian/School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17+</td>
<td>Update vocational training file with descriptions of acquired skills, vocational training history, and related transition assessment information</td>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Establish proposed graduation date as part of the IEP</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Transfer of educational rights to student</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Register for Selective Service (Males only)</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) through Social Security Administration at age 18, if not already established</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18+</td>
<td>Obtain updated IQ and Adaptive Behavior measures completed for Region 3</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
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</table>
### Transition Year:

**18+ (one-year prior to graduation)**

| Establish linkages to public and private adult service agencies:  
| - Obtain signed releases for information sharing with other agencies  
| - Intake for Region 3 DBHDD planning list for Medicaid Waiver  
| - Investigate agencies for Community Access Services, Prevocational Services, and Community Residential Alternative Services |

- School refers
- Student/Parent/Guardian

**Transition Year:**

**18 - 21**

- Targeted adult service agency will develop the appropriate individual written plan for future services.
- Final review and summarization of TSP to include the Summary of Performance (SOP)

- Student/Parent/Guardian
- Adult Services Agencies/ School

**Ongoing**

- Conduct additional vocational assessments or other assessments as needed

- Student/Parent/Guardian
- Adult Services Agencies/ School

**Ongoing**

- Update Transition Plan (preferences, strengths, interests, goals and objectives) at least annually

- Student/Parent/Guardian
- Adult Services Agencies/ School

* Must be completed by student-parent before holding the IEP meeting to develop the initial TSP
** Must be done during 8th grade year prior to going to High School

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### Transition Planning

**Time-Line for Community-Based Vocational Training**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Age/Grade</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Person Responsible</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
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13
**15/8th** Complete vocational assessments: Student-Parent Transition Questionnaire and the Checklist of Adaptive Living Skills (CALS) **PRIOR** to meeting to develop the initial Transition Service Plan (TSP)  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

**15/8th** Hold IEP meeting to develop initial TSP to be reviewed and updated annually  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Write statement indicating preferences, strengths, and interests based on transition assessments  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Develop Measurable Post-Secondary goals based on age appropriate transition assessments and present levels of performance. Goals must be stated for the areas of Education/Training, Employment and Independent Living.  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Determine course of study  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Discuss and determine diploma type  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

15/8th Consider graduation date  
Student/Parent/Guardian School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Age/Grade</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Person Responsible</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15/8th</td>
<td>Develop measurable transition goals and objectives in all areas</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Age/Grade</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Person Responsible</td>
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<tr>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Identify vocational interests/abilities based on age appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and independent living</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Identify vocational support needed</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Continue to provide instruction to address vocational interests/abilities/education and independent living based on continual transition assessments</td>
<td>Parent/Guardian/School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Consider guardianship</td>
<td>Parent /Guardian</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Inform student and parent that the student ’s educational rights will transfer to him/her at age 18</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Obtain official Georgia Identification Card (Georgia Department of Driver Services)</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16+</td>
<td>Complete Student Interest Inventory yearly</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Begin vocational instruction in a variety of community sites</td>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<th>Student Age/Grade</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<th>Completion Date</th>
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<td>Age Range</td>
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<tr>
<td>17+</td>
<td>Update vocational training file with references, descriptions of acquired skills, vocational training history, weekend employment, and related transition assessment information</td>
<td>School</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Establish proposed graduation date as part of the IEP</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Transfer of educational rights to student</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Register for Selective Service (Males only)</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) through Social Security Administration at age 18, if not already established</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18+</td>
<td>Obtain updated IQ and Adaptive Behavior measures completed for Region 3 and Vocational Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian School</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 18+ (one-year prior to graduation) | **Establish linkages to public and private adult service agencies:**  
- Obtain signed releases for information sharing with other agencies  
- Intake for Region 3 DBHDD planning list for Medicaid Waiver  
- Investigate agencies for Community Access Services, Supported Employment Services, and Community Residential Alternative Services  
- Complete application with Georgia Department of Labor Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor based on need | School refers  
Student/Parent/Guardian Region 3 Representative  
VR Counselor |
<p>| 18-21     | Provide copy of vocational file and work history to parent during graduation year                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Student/Parent/Guardian School |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Age/Grade</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Person Responsible</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>- Seek job placement</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Job coaching may be provided by school staff in cooperation with adult service agencies (Supported Employment Staff)</td>
<td>Adult Services Agencies/School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Parent support/assistance with job placement as Needed</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 – 21</td>
<td>- Targeted adult service agency will develop the appropriate individual written plan for future services</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Final review and summarization of TSP to include the Summary of Performance (SOP)</td>
<td>Adult Services Agencies/School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Conduct additional vocational assessments or other assessments as needed</td>
<td>Student/Parent/Guardian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Update Transition Plan (preferences, strengths, interests, goals and objectives) at least annually</td>
<td>Student/Parent /Guardian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Services Agencies/ School</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Must be completed by student- parent before holding the IEP meeting to develop the initial TSP **
* Must be done during 8th grade year prior to going to High School
TRANSITION SERVICE PLAN
EXAMPLES for MID-Independent Living, MOID, SID, PID

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Vocational Preparation/Anticipated Post School Placement
- In-school vocational training experiences (office/clerical, custodial, cafeteria, grounds).
- Community-Based Vocational Training in a variety of job clusters (food service, commercial cleaning, retail, building maintenance, grounds maintenance, office/clerical, childcare, and packaging).
- Vocational classes/Warren Technical School
- Adapted equipment for vocational training
- Other

DEVELOPMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Awareness/Employment Related Knowledge and Skills
- Volunteer work
- Odd jobs/neighborhood jobs
- Weekend jobs
- Summer employment/Workforce Investment Act
- Apprenticeship
- Georgia Department of Labor – Vocational Rehabilitation Services (career counseling, application of services)
- Supported Employment
  - Individual
  - Job Share
  - Enclave
- Competitive Employment (no support)
- Competitive Employment (transition support)
- Community Access Services and Prevocational Services
- Georgia Identification Card
- Other
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Social Behaviors
- Interpersonal/social skills
- Appropriate friendships/relationships
- Social responsibility/dependability
- Sex education
- Parenting skills
- Behavior management
- Communication skills (appropriate conversation skills, augmentative/alternative communication system, interpreters)
- Support groups
- Assistive Technology (augmentative/alternative communication systems, FM auditory system)
- Funding sources for assistive technology
- Other

Recreation/Leisure Skills
- In-home leisure activities (TV, music, games, pets, etc.)
- Independent activities/Outings with friends (bowling, skating, movies, plays, etc.)
- Sport/social clubs (YMCA)
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Parks and Recreation programs
- Adult Special Olympics
- Community center programs
- Specialized/social activities
- Church groups
- Hobby clubs
- Library
- Concerts
- Adapted equipment (switches, bowling ramp, talking books, CCTV, etc.)
- Other

Transportation Needs for Community Access
- Mobility/orientation training within school
- Mobility/orientation training within community
- Mobility aids/training (seeing-eye dog)
- Pedestrian safety/street crossing/parking lots
- Public transportation (MARTA – Breeze Half-fare and MARTA Mobility)
- Taxi
- Family member as source
- Car pool
- Driver’s license
• Independent (own car, bike, walk)
• Supported (with peer or co-worker)
• Specialized (wheelchair van)
• Specialized equipment (power wheelchair)
• Financial resources available for transportation
• Other

ADULT LIVING SKILLS

Post-School Community Living Arrangements
• With family/relative
• Adult foster care
• Community Residential Alternative Services (group home/host home)
• Intermediate care facility
• Residential treatment facility
• Community Living Support Services (Semi-independent/supervised/supported living with paid supervision)
• Independent living (own home/apartment)
• Section 8 housing (subsidized housing)
• Respite
• Other

Financial/Other Benefits
• Region 3 referral
• Medicaid Waiver
• Adequate income for self-support
• Family financial support
• Eligibility/application for public assistance (Food stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families- TANF)
• Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
• Supplemental Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
• Minimum pay/maximum pay (benefits from SSI)
• Benefits Navigator
• Insurance
• Income is not important
• Other

Medical needs
• Medication (self-medicating or requires assistance)
• Specialized procedures (catheterization, shots, feeding tube, trach, etc.)
• Dental
• Audiology (hearing aids, FM auditory system, etc.)
• Vision
• Seizure disorder considerations
• Emergency medical procedures
• Medical/accident insurance (private insurance, school insurance)
• Medicaid/Medicare
• Medical services (doctor/dental checkups)
• Free clinics
• Nutritional counseling
• Personal assistive devices
• Need of daily medical care (intermittent to extensive)
• Access to services
• Occupational Therapy
• Physical Therapy
• Other

Advocacy/Legal Trust
• Advocacy services (Region 3, Medicaid Waiver, Congressman/Representative, etc.)
• Social services
• Wills/Trusts/Letter of Intent
• Legal Aid
• Transfer of educational rights at age 18
• Guardianship
• Register to vote
• Register for Selective Service

DAILY LIVING SKILLS

Independent Living Skills
• Personal management
  Hygiene skills (dressing, bathing, shaving, toileting, etc.)
  Personal preparation (use clock/alarms to follow various daily schedules, carry wallet/purse with I.D. card, money, keys, etc.)
  Telephone skills
  Household safety skills (locked doors, usage of 911, etc.)
• Money management
  Budgeting/banking
  Purchasing skills
  Financial planning
• Household Management
  Domestic skills (housekeeping, laundry, cleaning, shopping, cooking, etc.)
  Adapted equipment (TDD for hearing impaired, reachers, dressing aids, switches, puffy paint to mark appliances, braille labels, etc.)
• Assistive Technology (augmentative/alternative communication systems, FM auditory system)
• Funding sources available for assistive technology and adapted equipment

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAMPLE OF THE TRANSITION SERVICE PLAN (TSP)

TRANSITION SERVICE PLAN

STUDENT PREFERENCES, STRENGTHS, and INTERESTS: John is an 18 year old male in the 11th grade. He has obtained a Georgia ID card and a MARTA Half-Fare Breeze card. He currently receives SSI and Medicaid. He has also registered with Selective Service and to vote. He has reached the age of majority and retains his educational and legal rights.

According to the Student-Parent Transition Questionnaire completed on 2/20/17, John states that he enjoys working in the school cafeteria wiping tables. In the community, John likes to go bowling and he prefers to use Marta for his transportation needs. After graduation, he plans to live at home with his family; however, he is interested in developing a long-term plan for living arrangements for the future. After graduation he wants to obtain a job in the community where he can work with others doing building maintenance.

According to the Checklist of Adaptive Living Skills (CALS) updated on 2/25/17, in the Personal Living Skills Environment, John socializes by interacting with his peers and other adults. In addition, John expresses his personal opinions during group discussions. Furthermore, he knows to take precaution and not get too close to a person who is suffering from contagious illness. He can wash and bandage his wound in order to protect from getting infected. Observations and data collection show that John requires verbal prompts to complete his grooming tasks daily and to properly take his medication. In Home Living Skills Environment, John can take care of his clothes and do laundry with verbal prompts. He can plan and prepare a simple meal for himself with verbal prompting. For example, John can follow the steps to make a pizza and can use the microwave independently to warm food or make popcorn. He can select activities of his interest to keep himself busy in leisure time. In the Environment of Community Living Skills John travels by Marta bus and train independently to go to the library and other places. He is able to tell time in hours and minutes. John enjoys going to church and participates in the youth choir. In money management, John is able to budget his money up to twenty dollars. In the Employment Skills Environment, John knows how to fill out a job application and look for a job by going to the store and asking to speak to the manager. John is able to follow two-step requests and is able to ask questions about the way an unfamiliar work task is to be done.

The In-School Vocational Training (ISVT) Transition Assessment Report competed on 2/20/17 indicates John needs direct supervision and verbal prompts to complete job tasks. Currently he participates in vocational training within the school setting sorting silverware, operating a shredder, stuffing envelopes and cleaning tables in the cafeteria.

The CBVT Transition Assessment Report completed on 2/25/17 indicates John is able to follow three step directions independently. During the 2017-18 school year, John is receiving vocational training through the Community Based Vocational Training Program at Country Inn and Suites where his tasks include vacuuming, cleaning the tables and chairs in the breakfast area, cleaning windows, collecting towels from the work-out and pool area, replacing towels in the work-out and pool areas, and dusting. He needs direct supervision and verbal prompts to successfully complete these tasks.

COURSE OF STUDY: John receives specially designed instruction to access the general education curriculum using state grade level standards at an entry level as well as instruction focused on career development, life skills and community referenced skills.

Diploma Type = Regular Diploma
Desired Measurable Post-Secondary/Outcome Completion Goals (These goals are to be achieved after graduation and there must be completion goals for Education/Training and Employment)
**Education/Training** –
After graduation, John will participate in supported employment training in the area of building maintenance.

**Employment**–
After graduation, John will utilize supported employment services to obtain a part/full-time position in building maintenance.

**Independent Living (as appropriate)** –
After graduation, John will continue to live at home with his parents.

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Based on age appropriate transition assessments, in the spaces below, include measurable Transition IEP Goals and Transition Activities/Services appropriate for the child’s post-secondary preferences, strengths and needs. Note: There must be at least a measurable Transition IEP Goal to help the child reach each of the desired Measurable Post-Secondary/Outcome Completion Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transition IEP Goal(s)</th>
<th>Transition Activities/Services</th>
<th>Person/Agency Involved</th>
<th>Date of Completion/Achieved</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> John will receive training 3 times per week through the Community-Based Vocational Training program with direct supervision and cues @ 90% as reflected in the Work Related Behavior Checklist and task analysis data.</td>
<td>1a. Provide vocational training in a variety of job sites within the community 1b. Complete and return permission forms yearly 1c. Provide proof of insurance yearly 1d. Increase work behaviors and skills using the WRBIC and task analysis data 1e. Reinforce and encourage good work habits and skills 2a. Provide instruction on counting change 2b. Provide opportunities for John to make purchases in the community and to count his change 2c. Practice counting various amounts of money up to $20 2d. Count change and match the amount to his receipt after making a purchase</td>
<td>1a. Transition Liaison, Special Education Teacher (SET) 1b, 1c. John, Mr/Mrs. Doe, SET 1d. John 1e. Mr/Mrs. Doe, SET</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> John will manage money when making purchases while in the community by counting his change and matching the amount on his receipt as measured by completion of the activities.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2a, 2b. Mr/Mrs. Doe, SET 2c, 2d. John</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Development of Employment** (Goals based on occupational awareness, employment related knowledge and skills and specific career pathway knowledge and skills.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transition IEP Goal(s)</th>
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<th>Date of Completion/Achieved</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
1. John will complete personal information on simple forms and job applications using the computer independently @ 90% as measured by work samples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transition IEP Goal(s)</th>
<th>Transition Activities/Services</th>
<th>Person/Agency Involved</th>
<th>Date of Completion/Achieved Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a. Provide instruction in completing personal information on simple forms/applications using a computer</td>
<td>1b. Complete name, address, age, DOB, phone #, education, references, emergency contact, etc.</td>
<td>1a, 1d. Mr/Mrs. Doe, SET</td>
<td>1b, 1c. John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c. Practice completing personal information on simple forms/applications using a computer</td>
<td>1d. Reinforce and encourage appropriate skills in completing forms/application</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Community Participation (Goals based on knowledge and demonstration of skills needed to participate in the community (e.g., tax forms, voter registration, building permits, social interactions, consumer activities, accessing and using various transportation modes.))

1. John will purchase items in the community once a month using money management skills using verbal prompts @ 70%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transition IEP Goal(s)</th>
<th>Transition Activities/Services</th>
<th>Person/Agency Involved</th>
<th>Date of Completion/Achieved Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a. Provide instruction in money management skills</td>
<td>1b. Provide opportunities to shop in a variety of stores</td>
<td>1a, 1b. Mr/Mrs. Doe, SET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c. Practice paying for items using the dollar more method</td>
<td>1d. Pay to next dollar shopping in the community</td>
<td>1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g. John</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1e. Wait for change</td>
<td>1f. Count returned change</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1g. Wait for receipt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Adult Living Skills & Post School Options (Goals based on skills for self-determination, interpersonal interactions, communication, health/fitness and the knowledge needed to successfully participate in Adult Lifestyles and other Post School Activities (e.g. skills needed to manage a household, maintain a budget and other responsibilities of an adult.))

1. John will demonstrate self-advocacy skills by taking an active role in planning and participating in her next IEP meeting as measured by the completion of the activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transition IEP Goal(s)</th>
<th>Transition Activities/Services</th>
<th>Person/Agency Involved</th>
<th>Date of Completion/Achieved Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a. Develop a list of committee members to invite to her next IEP meeting</td>
<td>1b. Practice introductions of IEP committee members before February 2015</td>
<td>1a. John, Mr/ Mrs. Doe, SET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c. Introduce IEP committee members at next IEP meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td>1b. John, SET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1e. John</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Related Services** (Goals based on Related Services that may be required now to help a child benefit from regular and special education and transition services (e.g., speech/language, occupational therapy, counseling, vocational rehabilitation training or the planning for related services that the individual may need access to as an adult.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transition IEP Goal(s)</th>
<th>Transition Activities/Services</th>
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<th>Date of Completion/Achieved Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. John will complete the steps to apply for a Medicaid Waiver from Region 3 DBHDD office for adult services as measured by the completion of the activities.</td>
<td>1a. Provide application packet to family 1b. Complete application packet and return Liaison 1c. Process and submit application to Region 3 office 1d. Schedule and complete intake screening with Region Representative</td>
<td>1a. Transition Liaison, SET 1b. John, Mr/Mrs. Doe, SET 1c. Transition Liaison, 1d. Region 3 Rep. John, Mr/Mrs. Doe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Daily Living Skills** (Goals based on adaptive behaviors related to personal care and well-being to decrease dependence on others.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transition IEP Goal(s)</th>
<th>Transition Activities/Services</th>
<th>Person/Agency Involved</th>
<th>Date of Completion/Achieved Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. John will prepare a simple meal with verbal assistance once a week as measured by the completion of the activities.</td>
<td>1a. Provide instruction in meal preparation 1b. Follow directions to prepare meal items 1c. Use a checklist for meal preparation 1d. Clean up area used 1e. Provide opportunities to prepare a meal 1f. Reinforce and encourage food preparation skills</td>
<td>1a, 1 e, 1 f. Mr/Mrs. Doe, SET 1b, 1 c. John, Mr/Mrs. Doe, SET 1d.John</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRANSFER OF RIGHTS (required by age 17):** John was informed on 3/10/2014 of his rights, if any, will transfer at age 18.

**RIGHTS WERE TRANSFERRED (required by age 18):** John was informed on 3/6/2016 of his rights.
QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

1. Should I keep a file on my child and what should it include?

Yes. It is very important to keep a file on your child. It will be needed for future planning. This file should include the following:

A) School records, especially the most recent IEP, TSP, and most current test results
B) Original Social Security card or number
C) The parents’ social security numbers
D) Child’s birth certificate – Original or Certified Copy
E) Medical records or other clinical information
   (If reports are not available, list the names and addresses of doctors, hospitals and clinics that have provided care.)
F) The names and addresses of social workers and administrators of residential facilities that have provided assistance.
G) Guardianship orders
H) A copy of any will in which the child is mentioned
I) Bank books, insurance policies, and other papers that show any resources
J) Pay stubs, tax returns, and other papers that show any income of the child
K) Papers showing admission to a residential facility at any time
L) Parents’ income tax W-2 statements to show coverage under Social Security
M) Information about the parents’ income and resources if the child is a minor (under age 18)
N) Information about a spouse’s income and resources if the child is married
O) A marriage certificate of the parents if the child is a step-child
P) Veteran’s C number on discharge papers of the parent
Q) The latest tax bill or assessment notice on any real estate the child owns other than his or her home
R) Motor vehicle registration if the child owns a car
S) Information about the child’s eligibility for SSI and Medicaid or Social Security/Medicare
T) Information about the child’s eligibility for a Medicaid Waiver
U) Copy of your “Letter of Intent”

2. What skills can I help my child learn to make them successful in a job situation?

Since each child is different, ask your child’s teacher and/or vocational instructor for input on what would be most helpful. Prior to community training, regular household chores will increase responsibility. An allowance is the important first step in money management. Make sure your child is aware of appropriate dress and hygiene for job success. Help your child become as independent as possible in self-help skills (choosing clothes, hygiene, doing laundry, etc.)

3. What are the steps for transition from school to work?

Refer to the Transition Planning Time-Line in this manual.

4. How do I apply for SSI for my child and at what age?

When your child reaches age 18, call the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-800-772-1213 and set up an appointment to apply for benefits.
Ask them how much time you will need for your appointment. At the same time ask them to send you any written information about SSI benefits and Medicaid so that you can familiarize yourself with the system prior to your appointment. You can also obtain information at: www.socialsecurity.gov.

You may be able to apply for SSI benefits before your child reaches age 18. Prior to age 18, SSA will look at your income. Depending upon your level of income, your child may qualify for SSI benefits.

5. Can my child have a savings account and still receive SSI benefits?

In order to receive SSI benefits, an individual must have less than $2,000.00 in their name in checking, savings, investments, etc. An individual can be working and continue to be determined to be disabled as long as earnings are below what is called substantial gainful activity ($1,070 a month in 2014). It is best to have no money in your child’s name. A fund for burial up to $1500 does not count against the resource limit.

6. How much money might my child receive from SSI before going to work?

In 2018, the maximum SSI payment is $750 per month for an individual. Not everyone gets the maximum. Individuals who receive “in-kind” support will receive 1/3 less in SSI per month. In-kind support is free food, clothing or shelter, usually provided by the parent.

7. How much can an SSI recipient earn without losing benefits?

If your child works and makes less than $85 each month, SSI will usually not change. Once earnings go over $85 per month, SSI will deduct $1.00 for every $2.00 earned. As the money earned goes up, SSI will go down; however, the amount of earnings plus the remaining SSI benefit will always be more than the original SSI check. If there is no other income, money or support (this means your child is getting the maximum SSI award of $721), an individual earning less than $1,527 per month will still get some SSI cash benefit. If your child is getting less than $721 the maximum they can earn before losing the cash benefit will be less.
There are work incentives that allow some income to be disregarded. For example, earnings used to pay for special transportation to and from work and the cost of special equipment that helps the individual at work will not be counted as income. The **Benefits Navigator Program** (404-350-7589 or 404-350-7598) can help you figure out the work incentives.

A special benefit called the **SSI Student Earned Income Exclusion** allows a person under age 22 who is still a student in school to exclude up to $1,820 (in 2018) per month in earned income, with a yearly maximum of $7,350 (for 2018). This means that these earnings will not be counted against them and reduce their check. This allows for summer jobs or small part-time paid work experiences during the school year.

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**8. What is Benefits Navigator?**

Benefits Navigator is a free service funded by Social Security Administration. They provide information to adults and teenagers ages 14 – 65 with any type of disability who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or both and who are interested in pursuing work goals.

**9. What type of information do they provide?**

Benefits Navigator provides information on how social security benefits and/or state benefits change when someone begins working, work incentives such as the PASS, the Trial Work Period and ImpairmentRelated Work Expenses, and other programs and services that can help create successful employment.

**10. How do I contact them?**

Benefits Navigator can be reached by calling their number: 404-350-7589 or 404-350-7598.

**11. I have received a “Ticket to Work” in the mail from Social Security. What is this?**
The Ticket to Work and Self Sufficiency Program (called “the Ticket”) is a new part of the Social Security program designed to educate people with disabilities about the possibilities of getting help to return to work despite their disabilities and to encourage them to do so. However, the services to help people return to work that the “Ticket” program refers to have been available for 90 years under the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Other agencies, called Employment Networks, have been recruited to offer some of the same services, so that individuals can have a choice in determining from whom they would like to receive their vocational services. You can call Maximus, the Ticket Program Manager, at 1-866-968-7842 (TTY 1866-833-2967), for more information about Employment Networks in Georgia. This information is also included in the paperwork that is sent with the Ticket. You can also visit www.socialsecurity.gov/work.

The primary benefit to your child for participating in the Ticket to Work Program is that once the Ticket is “assigned” to an employment network:

1. Your child ’s Social Security case will not be medically reviewed for at least five years in order to determine if his/her disability has improved so much that he/she is no longer considered “disabled” under the Social Security rules. The individual has to meet “timely progress” requirements to qualify for this protection.

2. If you are dissatisfied with services from your Employment Network, you can contact Maximus at 1-866-968-7842 (TTY 1-866-833-2967) and be referred for assistance and advocacy in addressing your concerns to choose a new employment network.

12. Will my child lose Medicaid benefits by going to work?

In general, Medicaid coverage will continue even after your SSI payment stops because of earnings, up to a certain level. In 2017, a person could earn up to $30,797 and still qualify to get Medicaid. Medicaid may continue for SSI recipients who are blind or disabled and earn over the SSI limits, if they cannot afford similar medical care and depend on Medicaid in order to work.
13. Who should be contacted if my child is having problems on the job or loses the job?

Contact your child’s Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor or Employment Network contact, or the Supported Employment Program contact person. It is best to talk to these people before your child loses the job. In many cases, additional job coaching can be used to correct problems on the job in order for your child to keep the present job.

14. Does my son need to register with the Selective Service System?

Yes, virtually all male U.S. citizens and male immigrants residing in the U.S. and its territories must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Registration information cards are available from any post office or you can register online at www.sss.gov.
1. I heard that when my child turns 18, they are considered their own legal guardian. Is that true?

Yes, the age of majority in Georgia is 18 years old. Because of this, at 18, the child will have all rights transferred to themselves from their parents/guardians. At the age of 17 the student and their parents should be informed of this transfer and consent and a statement of the knowledge of this transfer will be included in the student’s IEP. The rights will automatically be transferred on the student’s 18th birthday. According to the state, individuals age 18 and over are legally presumed to be competent to make his/her own medical, financial, and educational decisions. Parents can file for guardianship at the county courthouse (www.gaprobate.org/guardianship.php).

2. What are Guardianship and the Alternatives in Georgia?

A guardianship is a legal relationship wherein a court appoints a person (a guardian) to make certain decisions for another person (a ward) proven to need such assistance. The decision-making power removed from a person should be as limited as possible.

There are a variety of possible legally-approved guardianships if the student is considered to be unable to make their own decisions. A guardianship can be created on an emergency basis, and it can be temporary (limited in duration) or permanent. Guardianships can be limited in scope, removing as few rights as necessary.
Guardianships can be of the person or they can be of the property. For a guardian of the person, the individual needs a guardian to decide personal issues such as where to live, consent for medical treatment, etc. A guardian of the estate, called a conservator, usually has power just over the person’s money or property, not the individual’s personal matters. This type of guardianship is to protect the person’s property and use it for their care, support, education and other areas of general welfare. The most restrictive guardianship is full guardianship. This includes guardianship over the person’s entire personal and property decision making without any limits on the powers of the guardian.

Limited guardianship is another type where a person is encouraged to keep as much control as possible over his or her own life. In this case, the guardian has authority only in specifically defined matters.

Temporary guardianship is where a protective order is issued. Under the protective order, the court can give another person, a public guardian, or corporate guardian, the legal authority to handle a specific situation. Once the situation is resolved, the guardianship ends.

It is essential that any guardianship action be specific as to what is needed. The court should remove as few rights as possible. All of the rights under each type of guardianship are removed if the court says nothing about limits.

There are several other ways besides a guardianship to act on behalf of someone whose decision-making ability is seriously interrupted and whose well-being is in jeopardy. Durable power of attorney for property, durable power of attorney for healthcare, durable power of attorney for advocacy, living will/healthcare directive, a trust, joint property ownership, joint bank account, state programs, and representative payee ship are alternatives. Nevertheless, there are times that the best or only type of substituted decision-making for a person is by means of a guardianship.

Families should begin this process around the student’s 17th birthday, especially if full guardianship is desired. For more information, please refer to Georgia Advocacy Office, Inc. in the Legal Services section of this transition manual and to the “A Family Handbook on Future Planning” provided at the initial transition meeting. **You may also go to www.gcdd.org website and look for the document “Thinking about
Guardianship? More information along with the form to petition for guardianship can be found at: www.gaprobate.org/guardianship.php

4. What is a Georgia Identification card? Why do I need one? How do I obtain one for my child?

A Georgia identification card contains the same personal information, photo, signature and special protection against alteration and fraud as a driver’s license. Any person that is old enough to sign their name, or make a mark indicating their legal signature can apply to the Department of Driver Services for an identification card. The cost is $32.00 for 8 years.

Applicants must furnish proof of their residence in Georgia and must provide a valid Georgia residence address. The following items are acceptable: utility bill with valid Georgia residence address issued within the last 60 days, bank statement with valid Georgia residence address issued within the last 60 days, current valid rental contracts and/or receipts for rent payment with valid Georgia residence address made within the last 60 days, employer verification and non-expired Georgia license, permit, or identification card issued to parent, guardian, or spouse.

First time applicants for an identification card must show some acceptable form of personal identification that includes full name, month, day and year of birth. The following items are acceptable but must be Original or a Certified Copy: original state issued birth certificate (hospital birth certificates are not acceptable), certified copy of birth certificate (issued from Vital Statistics with affixed seal), certificate of birth registration, certified copy of court records (adoption, name changes or sex changes), certified naturalization records, immigration ID card or valid passport.

Anyone applying for a GA ID card must provide a social security number at the time of issuance. It is not necessary to have your original social security card. However, penalties will occur if an incorrect social security number is provided.

U.S. citizens must furnish proof of citizenship. Non-U.S. citizens must present proper INS documentation. Documents presented must be either
in English or translated into English by a translator approved by the Department of Drivers Services.

Locations of six Driver’s License Services Offices are as follows: 8040 Rockbridge Road in Lithonia; 2206 Eastview Parkway in Conyers; 8610 Roswell Road, Suite 710 in Sandy Springs; 2211 Beaver Ruin Road in Norcross; 2801 Candler Road in Decatur; and 310 Hurricane Shoals in Lawrenceville. The driver’s license facilities are open Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM and Saturday from 7:30 AM - 12 Noon.

Locations nearest you can be obtained from the DDS website, www.dds.ga.gov. Under the first listing (Department of Driver Services) click location and enter your zip code.

5. What is advocacy?

Advocacy is the process of actively speaking out, writing in favor of, supporting, and/or acting on behalf of oneself, another person, or a cause. Advocacy is any action to assure the best possible services for an intervention in the service system on behalf of an individual or group.

6. How do I advocate for my child?

You advocate by informing your legislator of the needs of your child with a developmental disability. Urge your legislator to fund home and community-based services, which help people with disabilities to get out of institutions and stay out of institutions. To locate your legislator, go to www.vote-smart.org or call your local voter registration office. For more information regarding advocating for your child’s needs, contact Georgia’s Unlock the Waiting Lists! Campaign.

7. How do I contact them?

Call 1-888-275-4233 or visit their web site at: www.unlockthewaitinglists.com

8. What is Georgia’s Unlock the Waiting Lists! Campaign?
The campaign is a targeted effort by a coalition of Georgia disability organizations to educate the public and change public policy. The mission is to reduce and/or eliminate waiting lists for thousands of people with disabilities, the frail elderly, and their families who need home and community-based services.

9. What are the waiting lists?

Georgians with significant disabilities need essential services to remain with their families and in their communities. These services have not been adequately funded; therefore, individuals with disabilities have been placed on waiting lists with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to obtain services when funding becomes available.
SSI
AND
MEDICAID
INFORMATION
SSI is a needs based program. You must meet both the disability criteria and financial eligibility criteria to receive SSI. Financial criteria mean you cannot have more than $2000 in cash, checking, savings, etc. You can have $1500 in a burial fund and a Life Insurance policy with a cash value of not more than $1500. You may own a house and a vehicle. If you are under age 18, parents’ income is considered. If you are under age 18 and fail to meet the financial eligibility but you do meet the disability criteria, you will not receive SSI but you may be able to receive Medicaid. (Refer to the Deeming Waiver information section). If you are age 18 or over, parents’ income is not considered.

Application for SSI is made through the Social Security Administration. The Social Security office serving most of DeKalb County is located at 4365 Shackelford Road, Norcross, GA 30093. This is off of the Beaver Ruin or Indian Trail Exits of I-85 in Gwinnett County.

The Social Security office serving DeKalb County Zip Codes of 30032, 30034, 30049, 30316, 30317, and Ellenwood is located at 2853 Candler Road Suite 8 (South DeKalb Mini Mall) Decatur, Georgia 30034.

The Social Security Website is: www.socialsecurity.gov

The Social Security Administration wants to assist callers through the following toll free numbers:

1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778

Generally the best days/times to call are: Wednesday - Friday before 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m. but this varies somewhat. Listen to the recorded message and request to apply for SSI and Medicaid. An agent will come on the line. You will be asked to state the following:

Your name
Your address
Your telephone number
Child’s name
Child’s date of birth
Child’s social security number
Parents’ social security number
Parents’ estimated income
Child’s disability and date it began

If your child is over 18 years old, they will ask you:

How much money your child has in the bank (must have less than $2,000 in his/her name)

If your child is under age 18, they will ask you:

How much money you have in the bank and information about your home such as mortgage, rent, cost of food and utilities.

What will happen?

You will be given either a telephone appointment or an appointment at the closest Social Security Office. For DeKalb County residents, it will be 4365 Shackelford Road, Norcross, GA 30093 or 1816 Candler Rd. (South DeKalb Mini-Mall) Decatur, Georgia 30037. When making an appointment, ask how much time you should allow for this meeting and possible additional waiting time.

It is best to schedule an appointment at your local Social Security Office. Take your child with you for the appointment. Take all the papers they told you to bring. Also, bring with you the name of your child’s Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, if he/she has one and give it to them.

It will take approximately 120 days before your child receives the first SSI check and Medicaid card. Sometimes a child might get temporary SSI benefits for up to six months until the final decision is made.

If, for some reason, your child is denied benefits, the denial letter will include instructions for filing an appeal. Follow them and file the appeal!
After contacting Social Security, you may want to contact the DeKalb Department of Family and Children Services at 404-370-5000 to see if any additional benefits may be available until SSI begins.

The Georgia Health Partnership will answer specific as well as general questions that you or the Medicaid recipient may have. Their number is 1- 866-211-0950.

What is SSDI?

SSDI is Social Security Disability Insurance.

The SSDI program pays benefits to adults who have a disability that began before they became 22 years old. This SSDI benefit is a “child’s” benefit because it is paid on a parent’s Social Security earnings record. For a disabled adult to become entitled to this “child” benefit, one of his or her parents:

- Must be receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits; or
- Must have died and have worked long enough under Social Security

These benefits also are payable to an adult who received dependents benefits on a parent’s Social Security earnings record prior to age 18, if he or she is disabled at age 18. SSDI disabled adult “child” benefits continue as long as the individual remains disabled. Your child does not need to have worked to get these benefits.
THE DEEMING WAIVER

In some special situations, children under the age of 18 who do not qualify for SSI may qualify for a deeming waiver. What is a “Deeming Waiver”?

The Deeming Waiver is a way for parents to get Medicaid for their child with a disability when their income is too high to qualify for SSI. This federal waiver takes the family income out of the picture and looks at the income/assets of the child.

Who should apply for the Deeming Waiver?

Families whose income is too high to receive SSI can apply. Even if a child has private insurance coverage, parents can apply for this waiver. Most private insurance policies have service limitations, out of pocket expenses, and lifetime caps. In cases where private insurance exists, the Deeming Waiver will be beneficial as secondary insurance to cover out of pocket expenses and will be helpful to have before a lifetime cap is met. As secondary coverage, Medicaid will pay for 20% of covered expenses that primary insurance does not pay. Also, many insurance companies do not pay for the physical, occupational, and speech therapies that may be covered by Medicaid.

What are the Deeming Waiver Eligibility Criteria?

In order to apply for the Deeming Waiver the child must meet the following guidelines:

- Child must be under 18 years of age.
- Child must meet federal criteria for disability.
- Child must be ineligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to income and/or assets of the parents.
- Child requires a level of care provided in a hospital, skilled-nursing facility or intermediate-care facility (including an intermediate-care facility for the mentally retarded).
- Child can appropriately be cared for at home.
The estimated cost of caring for the child outside of the institution will not exceed the estimated cost of treating the child within the institution.

How can I apply for a Deeming Waiver?

1. Applications for the TEFRA/Katie Beckett Program should be filed with the Centralized Katie Beckett Medicaid Team at the following address:

**Right From the Start Medicaid Project**
**Centralized TEFRA/Katie Beckett Medicaid Team**
5815 Live Oak Parkway
Suite D-2
Norcross, GA  30093-1700
678-248-7449 (phone)
678-248-7459 (fax)

You may also apply online at www.compass.ga.gov. You will need to apply under health coverage for aging, blind, and disabled. Applications must be submitted in the child’s name. Applications may be picked up at the office as well.

The first step in the process is to determine ineligibility for SSI. Most of the time, the county DFCS office can make this determination, but occasionally this is not possible. If they cannot, they will refer you to the Social Security office to apply for SSI for your child. The Social Security office may be able to send you an informal denial based on the income information that you give them, which will keep you from having to complete the entire application. **Be sure to tell them that you need a statement of denial in writing to submit with the Deeming Waiver application.**

2. You will need to gather information and fill out forms in order to document your child’s disability. The DFCS worker will tell you about this information, give you the appropriate forms, and tell you where you can get assistance in completing the documents.

These documents include:

- Social History: a detailed family history
• Psychological Evaluation: for children with intellectual disabilities or developmental delay diagnosis. This must be completed by a Psychologist (PhD)

• Plan of Care: service plan that states the child’s strengths, needs and recommendations

• DMA- 6 Form: physician’s recommendation for nursing home placement. Although the parent can fill out the form, the doctor must sign it. **This form is very important.** Be sure to ask the DFCS worker to mark the areas that require the signature of the doctor. The form should be taken to the doctor that knows your child best. **Do not have the doctor date the form when it is signed because it is only good for 30 days from the time it is dated.** It should be dated at the time all of the paperwork is completed and the application is ready to be submitted.

3. When all paperwork is complete, the DFCS worker will submit the completed packet to the Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF) for approval.

* Once a child is approved for the Deeming Waiver, a review of the child’s continued eligibility must be completed annually.

**MEDICAID WAIVERS (NOW AND COMP WAIVERS)**

Does my child need a Medicaid Waiver?
Yes. This is the funding source for your child to receive home and community-based services.

**I have heard a lot about Medicaid Waivers. What is a Medicaid Waiver?**

A Medicaid Waiver is money that may be used to pay for services for a person who has an intellectual and/or developmental disability. These services can take place in the person’s home or in the community. Medicaid Waiver Services can support both children and adults.

Medicaid usually pays for doctor’s appointments, hospital expenses, medicine, therapy, and some supplies and equipment. The waiver allows for Medicaid dollars to be used to pay for additional services. The Medicaid Waiver dollars are part state and part federal money.

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) administers a Medicaid Home and Community Based (HCBS) waiver program called NOW and COMP Waivers.

**What is the NOW Waiver (New Options Waiver)?**

The NOW Waiver (New Options Waiver) provides supports to people with developmental disabilities who live in their own home or with family members and require services costing less than $25,000 a year. It provides supports to people who need less intensive services who do not need 24 hour care.

**What is the COMP Waiver (Comprehensive Supports Waiver)?**

The COMP Waiver (Comprehensive Supports Waiver) provides supports to people who need a full range of intensive in-home or out-of-home services with costs of over $25,000 a year. The Waiver is also used for people who are transitioning out of institutions into the community.

**What services are provided by the waivers?**

Some of the services under the NOW and COMP waivers include: Community Access, Community Living Support, Community Residential Alternative, Natural Support Training, Individual Goods and Services, Environmental Accessibility Adaptations, Respite, Specialized Medical Supplies and Equipment, and Supported Employment. Refer to the
publication “**Constructing a Good Life Through Understanding the NOW and COMP Waivers**” for more details. This publication is available on the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities website: [www.gcdd.org](http://www.gcdd.org). A copy may also be obtained from your Transition Liaison.

**Are there services that are waiver specific?**

Yes. The NOW and COMP Waivers each include specific services that are *only* available in that waiver. Natural Support Training and Individual Goods and Services are available *only* in the NOW Waiver. Community Residential Alternative Services are available *only* in the COMP Waiver.

**Who is eligible for these Waivers?**

The target group for the waiver program is individuals who have intellectual disabilities and/or developmental disabilities. Individuals with developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or neurological impairments must have severe impairments to be eligible for the waiver. The waiver can serve both children and adults.

Individuals must be Medicaid eligible to obtain a Medicaid Waiver. If you receive SSI, you automatically have Medicaid. If you receive Medicare and not Medicaid, it is possible to make you Medicaid eligible through a “Medical Assistance Only (MAO)” process. Talk to the Region Three Intake and Evaluation Team to begin this process.

**How do I apply for a Medicaid Waiver for my child?**

Application for the NOW and COMP waivers is made through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) regional offices. Call the Region Three DBHDD Office at 770-414-3052 to obtain an application or ask your child’s Transition Liaison to assist you with the application.

**What will happen after I apply?**

1. The Intake and Evaluation Team (I&E) will complete a screening to see if you are eligible for services. If you are eligible, they will place your name on either a long-term or a short-term planning list.

2. If you are placed on the short-term list, you will be assigned a Planning List Administrator (PLA). The PLA will check with you and your family
periodically to see if there are any changes in your situation and will also help you look for other supports.

3. If you are placed on the long-term list, you will receive a letter stating that placement. You will be contacted once a year to see if you wish to remain on the planning list. Call the Region Three office six months prior to graduating or aging out and request to have your name moved to the short-term planning list.

4. When funding becomes available, the regional office staff will send a letter stating that you have been approved for a Medicaid Waiver. (You must be on the short-term list to be considered for a waiver.) The PLA will assist you in completing all of the steps in the Waiver process. This process may vary some from region to region.

5. The PLA will complete the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) which will be used in determining the amount of funding that you will receive. Be sure that the SIS thoroughly describes your needs. The PLA and the provider you have chosen will assist you and your family in completing the Individual Service Plan (ISP) based on needs identified in the intake assessments.

6. In Region Three, the PLA will give you and your family information about approved providers. You and your family will choose a provider with help from the PLA. Some services may be self-directed. After a provider is chosen, the I&E Team will come to your home to complete other required assessments and Medicaid documents. Be sure that the assessments thoroughly describe your needs.

7. After all steps in the process are completed and services begin, you will be assigned a Support Coordinator and will no longer work with the PLA.

What is the difference between the short-term planning list and the long-term planning list?

The short-term planning list is designed for people needing waiver services immediately or in the near future (within approximately six months). The long-term planning list is designed for people needing waiver services at some point in the future.

Will I keep my Waiver if I move?
You can move around Georgia and your Medicaid Waiver will go with you. If you move out of state, it does not transfer with you. Once you receive a Medicaid Waiver, it remains yours for as long as you continue to meet the eligibility requirements and still need services.

**What is the organizational structure of the Waiver programs?**

The NOW and COMP waivers are administered by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). There are six regional offices responsible for intake and evaluation, preauthorization of services, utilization management, crisis resolution, and quality management. Individuals access the NOW or COMP waivers through these regional offices.

DeKalb County is in Region Three. The Region Three office is located at 100 Crescent Centre Parkway, Suite 900, Tucker, Georgia 30084. The phone number is (770) 414-3052.

**How do I obtain additional information about the Waiver programs?**

Questions and answers and information about the NOW and COMP waivers are posted on the following website: [www.dbhdd.georgia.gov](http://www.dbhdd.georgia.gov)
ADVOCACY SERVICES

Autism Society of America
Greater Georgia Chapter
P.O. Box 3707
Suwanee, GA 30024
770-904-4474
(FAX) 770-904-4476
www.asaga.com
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorders, their families and professionals who work with them
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Parent support groups and meetings; conferences and workshops; public awareness/education; advocacy; newsletters; literature available in Spanish; resource guide on line in Spanish; and phone help-line for information and referral
FEE: Membership dues, general information is free

Bobby Dodd Institute
(Formerly) AADD—All About Developmental Disabilities
125 Clairemont Ave, Suite 300
Decatur, GA 30030
404-881-9777
(FAX) 404-881-0094
www.aadd.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability
AGES: 3 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Information and referral services, family support services, disbursement of information through a newsletter, public policy and advocacy, community engagement, crisis intervention training for first responders, directory of services, supported employment, and provides service coordination through the Medicaid Waiver program
FEE: Varies — fee based, state funding, partial scholarships available

Childkind
3107 Clairmont Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30329
404-248-1980
www.childkind.org
POPULATION SERVED: Children with complex medical and/or developmental disabilities
AGES: 0-21
SERVICES OFFERED: Family Placement for children in state custody or those at risk of institutionalization, Transition Support Services, and Family Support Services. Connects parents to community and neighborhood resources. Provides Foster Homes and Host Homes for ages 0-21. Offers
Community trainings (Disability Awareness 101) on resources, system navigation, and access to Medicaid Waivers FEE: Medicaid Waiver and private pay

**Citizen Advocacy of Atlanta & DeKalb**  
404-523-8849  
376 Oakdale Road NE  
www.citizenadvocacyatlantadekalb.org  
Atlanta, GA 30307  
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with Developmental Disabilities who are at risk of social exclusion, abuse or neglect  
AGES: any age  
SERVICES OFFERED: Provide protection and advocacy by initiating and supporting one-to-one citizen advocacy relationships FEE: None

**DisAbility Link**  
404-687-8890  
1901 Montreal Road, Suite 102  
www.disabilitylink.org  
Tucker, GA 30084  
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with all types of disabilities  
AGES: 18 years through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Serves 13 counties in Georgia, and is a center for independent living issues. Their core services are advocacy, teaching of independent living skills, peer support groups and mentoring, and information and referral.  
FEE: None

**Disability Resource Group**  
770-451-2340  
4164 Admiral Drive  
www.cpfamilynetwork.org  
Chamblee, GA 30341  
POPULATION SERVED: Anyone with a disability in Georgia, their family, friends, and advocates. Also help public and private sector organizations understand and include people with disabilities  
AGES: Rights and resources for people with disabilities of all ages, especially people over 21. Children K-12 when the issue is not IDEA-related  
SERVICES OFFERED: Answer questions about disability rights, help people look at options, consultation and workshops about disability issues FEE: Free workshops--Consultation for individuals with disabilities is free  

**Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta**  
404-320-3233  
www.dsaatl.org  
4355 J Cobb Pkwy #213  
Atlanta, GA 30339
POPULATION SERVED: Parents and families of children with Down syndrome
AGES: All ages
SERVICES OFFERED: The Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta is a non-profit organization dedicated to support, early intervention, education, awareness and advocacy to families of children with Down syndrome. FEE: $25 per year per household or lifetime payment of $250 per household. Parents of a newborn receive the first year’s membership free. Full or partial scholarships are available upon request for anyone with a financial hardship.

**Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS)**
3825 Presidential Parkway, Suite 103
Atlanta, GA 30340
POPULATION SERVED: All developmental disabilities
AGES: Birth - 29
SERVICES OFFERED: Offers emotional, informational and physical support to families of children with disabilities or ongoing medical needs through a variety of programs. FEE: Varies

**Georgia Advocacy Office, Inc.**
One West Court Square, Suite 625
Decatur, GA 30030
POPULATION SERVED: All disabilities
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Protects and advocates for persons who have a disability who live in the state of Georgia. FEE: None

**Georgia Council For the Hearing Impaired, Inc.**
4151 Memorial Drive, Suite 103B
Decatur, GA 30032
POPULATION SERVED: All individuals who are hearing impaired, hard of hearing, and deaf persons
AGES: 18 and over
SERVICES OFFERED: Advocacy, information and referral. Community education. GED/ABE preparatory classes
FEE: Membership open to the public. $20.00 membership fee for supporter club

**Georgia Learning Resources System**  
678-676-2400  
1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard  
www.metroeastglrs.org  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

POPULATION SERVED: Parents and/or professionals who work with individuals who have a developmental disability
AGES: Adults
SERVICES OFFERED: Maintains a library of videos, books, publications, instructional kits and adapted toys for check-out and loan. Provides workshops, in-services and serves as an informational and referral service. Publishes a summer recreation guide annually.
FEE: Small charge for materials made in production center

**Georgia Parent Support Network**  
404-758-4500  
1381 Metropolitan Parkway  
1-800-832-8645  
www.gpsn.org  
Atlanta, GA 30310

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have an intellectual disability or mental illness; emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families, individuals with substance abuse
AGES: Birth to 18 years
SERVICES OFFERED: Advocacy, advice, respite services, support and information. A quarterly newsletter is free to parents upon request. A special treatment program for sex offenders using supports in the community. Therapeutic foster care
FEE: None

**Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities**  
404-657-2126  
1-888-275-4233  
2 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 26-246  
(FAX) 404-657-2132
Parents Educating Parents & Professionals (PEPP, Inc.)  770-577-7771  
8355 Cherokee Blvd. 
Douglasville, GA  30134  
(FAX) 770-577-7774  
www.peppinc.org

POPULATION SERVED: All Georgia children who have a developmental disability
AGES: Birth to 26 years
SERVICES OFFERED: Assists parents and professionals in matters with respect to government regulations, provisions, and allotments under IDEA. Also provides training to parents in the form of meetings, workshops, support groups and individual assistance
FEE: Free for Douglas, Hall, and Paulding Counties. Other counties served under a sliding scale fee
3070 Presidential Parkway, Suite 130                        1-800-229-2038
Atlanta, GA 30340 FAX 770-458-4091
www.p2pga.org

POPULATION SERVED: Families of children with disabilities
AGES: Parents of children ages 0 to 26 & families with children transitioning out of an institution.
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides support and information to parents of children with disabilities. One of the most meaningful sources of support is networking with other parents who have experienced parenting a child with a disability.
FEE: None, services are free

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries 404-885-1234 of Social Security (PABSS) 1-800-537-2329
One West Court Square, Suite 625 www.thegao.org
Decatur, GA 30030

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or both
AGES: 14 - 65
SERVICES OFFERED: Assists with reviewing and advocating for the individual with a disability regarding the work plan developed with Vocational Rehabilitation or any employment network. Assists with litigation, discrimination issues, wage & hour issues, accessibility issues and accommodation issues
FEE: None. It is a free service funded by the Social Security Administration.
Region Three DBHDD Office  
404-244-5050 & 404-244-5056 
3073 Panthersville Road, Building 10 
Decatur, GA 30034 
(FAX) 404-244-5179 
dbhdd.georgia.gov 

POPULATION SERVED: Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale residents with mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases issues 
AGES: All 
SERVICES OFFERED: DBHDD provides treatment and support services to people with mental illnesses and addictive diseases, and support to people with intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities. DBHDD serves people of all ages with the most severe and likely to be long-term conditions, including consumers with forensic issues. Services are provided across the state through contracts with 25 community service boards, boards of health and various private providers, and through state-operated regional hospitals. Does not provide direct services 
FEE: None 

The Arc of Georgia  
470-222-6088 
P O Box 91051 
Atlanta, GA 30064 
www.ga.thearc.org 
e-mail:sramirez@thearc.org 
(FAX) 1-844-228-0521 

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability 
AGES: All 
SERVICES OFFERED: Advocacy and education for all disabilities; referrals to other resources 
FEE: None for information. Membership fee for those who want to join 

Unlock the Waiting Lists!  
1-888-275-4233 
2 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 26-246 
Atlanta, GA 30303 
(FAX) 404-657-2132 
www.unlockthewaitinglists.com 

POPULATION SERVED: Developmental disabilities and aging 
AGES: All 
SERVICES OFFERED: A campaign targeted by a coalition of Georgia Disability and Aging organizations to educate the public and change public
policy. Their mission is to reduce and/or eliminate waiting lists for thousands of people with disabilities, the frail elderly and their families who need home and community-based services.

FEE: None

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

Aldersgate Homes, Inc. 404-327-9491
4105 Briarcliff Road, NE (FAX) 404-327-9097
Atlanta, GA 30345 www.aldersgatehomes.com
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Aldersgate Homes, Inc. oversees two apartments, four group homes, and one condo serving 17 individuals. Residential services, advocacy and counseling are offered. Aldersgate contracts with Community Service Boards (CSBs) and private service providers for the individual services those residents need. Note: Since staff does not live in the apartments of the Aldersgate residences, consumers must be fairly high functioning and competent in meeting their own daily needs. The consumers are monitored regarding meeting their daily needs. Group homes are staffed 24 hours a day by the CSBs. Aldersgate Homes also has a recreational ministry for persons with developmental disabilities. Collinswood is a 27 acre recreational retreat facility providing day camping and/or an overnight stay on Lake Oconee in Morgan County. FEE: Contact agency regarding any fees

Annandale Village 770-945-8381
3500 Annandale Lane (FAX) 770-945-8693
Suwanee, GA 30024 www.annandale.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Residential community on 55 acres. Day programs also offered. Individuals live in apartments. All levels of supervision offered. Comprehensive programs include daily living skills, Respite Care, vocational and recreational opportunities.
FEE: Private/non-profit, Depends on services needed
Butler-Bowden Personal Care Home

694 Leighton Way
Stone Mountain, GA 30088
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with intellectual disabilities
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Residential Alternative Services, Community Access Services, and Prevocational Services
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

Chris 180

1017 Fayetteville Road
Atlanta, GA 30316
(FAX) 404-564-4719
www.chriskids.org
POPULATION SERVED: Metro Atlanta; abused/neglected children and adolescents
AGES: Group homes- ages 6-17 years; independent living- ages 17-21 years
SERVICES OFFERED: Residential therapeutic group homes and residential independent living program, individual and family counseling
FEE: Varies; some insurance companies will cover the cost

Circles of Support, Inc.

P. O. Box 373499
Decatur, GA 30037
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities or physical disabilities
AGES: 22 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Living Support Services for individuals in their home or assisted living arrangement in their foster home
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay
Creative Community Services  770-469-6226  
4487 Park Drive, Suite A  FAX) 678-608-3817  
Norcross, GA 30093  www.ccsgeorgia.org  
POPULATION SERVED: Any child or adult with an intellectual disability or developmental disability that requires special support and assistance  
AGES: Children 3 years of age through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Foster Care Placement Agency. Locating suitable housing, providing Community Living Support Services, providing supervision and assistance as needed for transportation, one on one life skills training, ongoing support for participants and their families. Job coaching and social programs can be provided on an hourly or per fee basis. The Successful Transitions through Empowerment and Planning (S.T.E.P.) program provides individualized care, supervision, and treatment to older adolescents based on their individual needs. The overall focus of the program is to work with youth who are approaching adulthood to prepare them to live independently and responsibly in the community.  
FEE: Medicaid Waiver  

DeKalb Community Service Board:  404-508-6413  
Residential Service  www.dekcsb.org  
Multiple Locations  
440 Winn Way (main office)  
Decatur, GA 30030  
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities who are DeKalb County residents. Referral through Region Three DBHDD AGES: 22 years through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Living Support Services and Community Residential Alternative Services with 24-hour staff  
FEE: SSI, SSDI, other client income, Medicaid Waiver
Destiny’s Child, Inc.  
404-696-4400  
3915 Cascade Road, Suite 260  
Atlanta, GA 30331  
www.destinyschildinc.com  
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities. Also elderly (55+) with developmental, emotional and psychological disorders  
AGES: 21 through Adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Living Support Services, Community Access Services, and private home care  
FEE: Medicaid Waiver

Developmental Disabilities Ministries, Inc.  
770-623-4899  
6320 Amherst Court  
Norcross, GA 30092  
www.ddmga.org  
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities  
AGES: 18 through Adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Residential Alternative Services (group homes)  
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

DPCH, LLC  
770-987-8301  
4818 Old National Highway  
College Park, GA 30337  
5305 Snapfinger Woods Drive  
Decatur, Ga. 30033  
www.demburepch.com  
POPULATION SERVED: Adults with developmental disabilities  
AGES: 18 years through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Residential Alternative Services, Community Access Services, and Supported Employment  
FEE: Medicaid Waiver

EnAble  
(Formerly) Georgia Community Supports and Solutions  
404-634-4222  
1945 Cliff Valley Way, Suite 220  
Atlanta, GA 30329  
www.gacommunity.org  
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities
AGES: 3 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Living Support Services, Community Residential Alternative Services, Community Access Services, and Supported Employment
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

A Helping Hand
439 Watson Bay
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with an intellectual disability
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Residential Alternative Services, Community Access Services
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

Just People
1412 Oakbrook Drive
Norcross, GA 30093
(FAX) 770-441-7506
www.justpeople.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with a developmental disability, mental health or traumatic brain injury
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Living Support Services, Community Access Services, Prevocational Services, Supported Employment Services, and case management support. They do not provide any group homes. FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

Jewish Family & Career Services
Tools for Independence
770-677-9300
770-677-9326
Zimmerman Horowitz Independent Living Program
4549 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338
www.yourtoolsforliving.org
POPULATION SERVED: Primarily adults with developmental disabilities; also provides Community Living Supports (CLS) to children who live at home
AGES: Community Access Individual and Community Living Supports 18 years through adulthood, CLS ages 3 through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Living Supports provided in individual’s home, as well as full supports to individuals who rent or own homes together,
also provides Community Residential Alternative supports in two homes in Austell
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

**KES, Inc.**
6615 Tribble Street
Lithonia, GA  30058
(FAX) 770-484-2119
www.kesinc.org

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities
AGES: age 17 through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Residential Alternative Services, Community Living Support Services, Community Access Services, Prevocational Services, natural supports, summer camp, and Supported Employment Services
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

**Lutheran Services**
230 Peachtree St., Suite 1100
Atlanta, GA  30303
www.lsga.org

POPULATION SERVED: Primarily serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and medically fragile
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: The FACES Programs: Programs designed to keep adults, adolescents, and children with disabilities in their communities through host homes and community living services
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, DFCS, Juvenile Justice or Dual Custody, private pay

**MENTOR, Inc.**
2302 Park Lake Drive N.E, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA  30345
www.thementornetwork.com

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities
AGES: All
SERVICES: Therapeutic foster care, Community Living Support Services, in-home supports, supervised independent living program FEE: Medicaid Waiver, M.A.T.C.H. funding, alternative funding
Owl’s Retreat
4727 North Royal Atlanta Drive
Tucker, GA 30084
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and some mental disabilities
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Residential care, transportation to/from medical appointments, total care of activities of daily living, planned activities of choice, medication, doctor’s visits, prescriptions
FEE: Medicaid Waiver

Precious Living, Inc.
448 Registry Bluff
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with intellectual disabilities
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Residential Alternative Services, Community Access Services, and Prevocational Services
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

RES-CARE of Georgia
2296 Henderson Mill Road, Suite 203
Atlanta, GA 30345
POPULATION SERVED: Offers services for people with developmental disabilities and other disabilities including intellectual disabilities, mental illness and acquired brain injuries
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Res-Care of Georgia is one of the largest providers of residential services in the country. It provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities through the Medicaid Waiver and persons with physical disabilities through the Independent Care Waiver Program. ResCare of Georgia offers residential and home/community-based Community Access Services, Prevocational Services to persons with developmental disabilities. Through the Independent Care Waiver Program, Res-Care provides staffing support to persons with physical disabilities in their own homes.
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, Independent Care Waiver, and private pay

Southern Resources Consultants, INC.
678-781-5204
3 Dunwoody Park, Suite 103
Atlanta, GA 30338
www.srccares.com
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with an intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Living Support Services and Community Access Services
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia
770-676-2000
3300 NE Expressway Bldg. 9
1-888-827-9455 Atlanta, GA 30341
(FAX) 770-455-8040
www.ucpga.org

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with all disabilities, not just those with cerebral palsy
AGES: 17 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides a full array of services and supports, which benefit people with developmental disabilities and their families. Programs and services include after school care, Community Access Services, Prevocational Services, and Community Living Support Services. Referrals through Region Three DBHDD
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay
LEGAL SERVICES

The Atlanta Legal Aid Society                      404-377-0701
246 Sycamore Street, Suite 120                  www.atlantalegalaid.org
Decatur, GA  30030                               www.georgialegalaid.org
Provides:  Assistance in domestic or civil matters only.  Offers representation,
legal advice and referrals for assistance with legal problems related to
government benefits (AFDC, food stamps, SSI, etc.).  Also included:
consumer issues, landlord-tenant issues, children issues and school issues.
Helps low income groups.

DeKalb Bar Association                             404-373-2580
Lawyer Referral Services                          www.dekalbbar.org
755 Commerce Drive                                 e-mail:execdir@dekalbbar.org
Decatur, GA 3003
Provides:  Lawyer referral services.  $40 for a 30 minute consultation.  Cash
or money order only

DeKalb County Probate Court                        404-371-2601
556 North McDonough Street                        Option 3
Room 1100 Courthouse Annex                        404-371-2892
Decatur, GA  30030
Provides: Information on the legal process to obtain guardianship

**DeKalb Volunteer Lawyer Foundation**  
404-373-0865  
315 W Ponce de Leon Ave, Suite 561  
Decatur, GA 30030  
Mon/Tues/Wed 9:00AM -12:00PM  
www.dekalbprobono.org

Provides: Legal services for those who cannot pay for a private attorney if they meet income requirements. If you wish to be screened for potential eligibility, please call between the hours of 9 AM – noon on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

**Georgia Advocacy Office, Inc.**  
404-885-1234  
150 E. Ponce de Leon Ave, Suite 430  
Decatur, GA 30030  
(FAX) 404-378-0031  
1-800-537-2329  
www.thegao.org  
E-mail: info@thegao.org

Provides: Protection and advocacy for oppressed and vulnerable individuals in Georgia who are labeled as disabled or mentally ill.

**The Georgia Community Trust**  
770-431-7070  
3995 South Cobb Drive  
Smyrna, GA 30080  
(FAX) 770-431-7072  
e-mail: rmfink@mindspring.com  
www.georgiacommunitytrust.com

Provides: The Georgia Community Trust was established to assist families in their planning to provide financial assistance to a family member with a disability. Individuals receiving SSI and Medicaid are limited as to the amount of income they may receive and the amount of assets they may own. Assets transferred to the Trust and earmarked for the intended beneficiary are not considered assets of the beneficiary for the purposes of SSI and Medicaid.

**PRIVATE LAWYERS**

**Personal Legal Plans, Inc.**  
770-391-0090  
Dennis McGarry, President  
100 Ashford Center North, Suite 170  
Dunwoody, GA 30338  
www.plpservices.com  
www.our-will.com

Provides: Estate planning, incompetency, trusts, durable power of attorney and healthcare power of attorney
Kim C. Martin 770-455-0535
Nadler and Biernath LLC FAX 770-457-1827
4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd Suite 500 www.nadlerbiernath.com
Atlanta, GA 30341
Provides: Estate planning, trusts, and wills for individuals with special needs

Janet E. Grayson 770-922-9898
P. O. Box 390654 e-mail: jegrayson@mindspring.com
Snellville, GA 30039
Provides: Guardianship, estate planning

Ruthann P. Lacey, PC 770-939-4616
3541-E Habersham at Northlake (FAX) 770-939-1758 Tucker,
GA 30084 www.elderlaw-lacey.com e-mail: rlacey@elderlaw-lacey.com
Provides: Expertise concentrating in Elder and Special Needs Law, including
wills and trusts, special needs trusts, and guardianships

Laurin M. McSwain 404-262-2000
Lefkoff, Duncan, Grimes, Miller & McSwain (FAX) 404-262-2897
11 Piedmont Center, Suite 806
3520 Piedmont Road NE, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30305
Provides: Estate planning, wills, trusts and guardianship issues

James B. Outman 404-317-3044
PO Box 942075 (FAX) 404-585-3094
e-mail: jim@outmanlaw.com
Atlanta, GA 31141-2075
Provides: Estate planning, special needs trust planning, and guardianship
issues

Kristyne L. Seidenberg 404-290-0305
www.seidenberglaw.com
Provides: Estate planning, will and trusts for families of individuals with
special needs

G. William Thackston, Jr. 404-806-7684
e-mail: gwt@gwtpcatty.com
6100 Lake Forest Drive, Suite 104 (Fax) 404-806-7685
Sandy Springs, GA 30328-3835
Provides: Wills, trusts, powers of attorney

Gary D. Zweifel 404-870-9111
The Zweifel Law Firm (FAX) 404-870-9039
400 Colony Square, Suite 200
1201 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA  30361-6203
Provides: Legal services including wills, trusts, guardianship, probate, and other estate planning

MEDICAL/DENTAL SERVICES

DeKalb County Board of Health/Central 404294-3762
440 Winn Way
Decatur, GA  30030
SERVICES OFFERED: HIV, TB, Refugee services, Family planning, and Immunizations

Child Health Immunization 404-508-7771
AGES: Birth to 21 years old
SERVICES OFFERED: Immunizations; health screenings only; dental, hearing and vision screenings; No check-ups. FEE: Accepts Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids

ADULT SERVICES (Central Health) 404-294-3762
SERVICES OFFERED: OB/GYN clinic; WIC services
FEE: Accepts Medicaid

Child Health Services/BABIES CAN’T WAIT 404-508-7981
AGES: Birth to 3 years old
POPULATION SERVED: Infant and toddlers with significant developmental delays
SERVICES OFFERED: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Special instruction in a natural environment (home or daycare)
FEES: Evaluation is free, based on sliding scale, accepts Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, Private Insurance

**Dentistry for the Developmentally Disabled (DDD)**  404-942-0086  
*Foundation, Inc.*  www.dddfoundation.org  
52 Executive Park South, Suite 5203  
Atlanta, GA  30329  
POPULATION SERVED: Must have a physical or mental disability  
AGES: 4 years old through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Non-profit organization that is committed to offering accessible, comprehensive dental treatment to patients having developmental disabilities in the metropolitan Atlanta area  
FEE: Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, private insurance accepted  

**Dr. Gregory Doneff**  770-396-1188  
200 Ashford Center North, Suite 330  www.ashfordcentersmiles.com  
Dunwoody, GA  30338  
POPULATION SERVED: Accepts special needs patients  
AGES: All  
SERVICES OFFERED: Dental  
FEE: Accepts private insurance, no Medicaid, no PeachCare

**Eaton Pediatric Dentistry**  770-934-3506  
*Dr. Jonathan Eaton*  (FAX) 770-493-8844  www.dreaton.com  
3744-A Lavista Road  
Decatur, GA  30033  
POPULATION SERVED: Metro area children  
AGES: 3 years through high school  
SERVICES OFFERED: Pediatric dentistry; general routine dental care; no orthodontics. Dentist does not use general anesthesia (uses Nitrous Oxide)  
FEE: Depends on services needed; no Medicaid.

**The Emory Clinic**  404-778-5000  
1365 Clifton Road, NE  www.emoryhealthcare.org  
Atlanta, GA  30322  
Physician/service referral: 404-778-7777  
POPULATION SERVED: All  
AGES: All  
SERVICES OFFERED: Primary and specialty care for all ages  
FEE: Depends on type of service needed. Medicaid/Medicare accepted
Eye Consultants of Atlanta
3225 Cumberland Blvd, Suite 900
Atlanta, GA 30339
POPULATION SERVED: All metro area/Georgia and other states
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Full comprehensive eye care
FEE: Depends on services needed. Medicaid/Medicare accepted

Friends of Disabled Adults & Children (FODAC)
4900 Lewis Road
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
POPULATION SERVED: People with disabilities
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Friends of Disabled Adults & Children repairs and refurbishes used medical equipment and donates equipment to people who need it. These items such as crutches, canes, walkers, wheelchairs (manual and power) and hospital beds are available free of charge to anyone who needs it. Repairs are also made to individuals own wheelchairs. FODAC has two new programs. Program Remount installs wheelchair lifts into vans. Ramps for Champs builds wheelchair ramps with donated labor.
FEE: FODAC – mainly donations, Program Remount – small program fee, Ramps for Champs – none

Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation
5582 Peachtree Road
Chamblee, GA 30341
POPULATION SERVED: Georgia residents only. Must be a legal Georgia resident for at least 1 year. Must be denied by PeachCare or Medicaid or have already received their one pair of glasses allowed for the year
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Help impoverished Georgia residents obtain eyeglasses, hearing aids, and eye surgery
FEE: Small fee

**Gottlieb Vision Group**
5462 Memorial Drive
Suite 101
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
POPULATION SERVED: All, including individuals who are multihandicapped
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Comprehensive vision services including vision therapy for vision-related learning problems. Vision rehabilitation for those with limited sight, also treats strabismus, glaucoma, etc.
FEE: Depends on type of evaluation needed, Medicaid/Medicare accepted

**Grant Park Family Health Center, Inc.**
1340 Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30315
POPULATION SERVED: No restrictions
AGES: Teenagers and Adults
SERVICES OFFERED: High quality health care provided by volunteer physicians and other health professionals. OB/GYN services available. Doctors available Monday through Thursday (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and on Friday (8:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.). Call about dental services. No pediatrician on staff
FEE: Sliding scale

**Greater Atlanta Family Healthcare, LLC**
3700 Market Street Bldg. C
Clarkston, GA 30021
POPULATION SERVED: All
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Immunizations; physical exams (health screenings)
FEE: Accepts Medicaid, Medicare, Georgia PeachCare

**Georgia Periodontics**
3648 Chamblee Tucker Road, Suite B
Atlanta, GA 30341

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POPULATION SERVED: Accepts special needs patients
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Periodontal dentistry
FEE: Accepts private insurance, no Medicaid, no PeachCare

LoveNCare Healthcare Services 770-360-5683
4562 Lawrenceville Hwy FAX: 1-888-849-7371
Suite # 201-210 www.lovencarehealthcare.com
Lilburn, Ga. 30047

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with Disabilities.
AGES: All ages depending on the services needed
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Living Supports, Community Access (Group/Individual for individuals that have transitioned out of high school) Specialized Medical Supplies, Specialized Medical Equipment, Supported Employment, Respite Care (In-Home)GAPP Program, Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP)
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, Private Pay

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies 770-451-5501
Coalition of Georgia, Inc. 1-800-300-9003 www.hmhbga.org
2300 Henderson Mill Road
Atlanta, GA  30345

POPULATION SERVED: Low income and Medicaid recipients, families in need of low-cost, sliding scale fee services
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Local phone number and statewide toll-free referral line to assist families in obtaining needed health care services, including identification of resources with both public and private providers. Referral for WIC. Lactation consultation. Assists children with special health care needs to find comprehensive care and coordinated services. English and Spanish speaking operators
FEE: Free resource

Marcus Autism Center 404-785-9400
1920 Briarcliff Road www.marcus.org
Atlanta, GA  30329 (FAX) 404-785-9315

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability and their families. Some disability areas require a physician referral.
AGES: Birth - 17 years old
SERVICES OFFERED: The Marcus Autism Center offers children comprehensive care to provide diagnosis, treatment and care management for a complete range of mild to severe disabilities including: developmental delays, learning disabilities, high-risk infants, severe behavior management, genetic syndromes, pediatric feeding disorders, cerebral palsy, domestic and international adoption evaluation, autism/pervasive developmental disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and foster care assessment. FEE: Depends on services provided, commercial insurance, self-pay, Medicaid and PeachCare accepted, no HMO plans accepted

Ben Massell Dental Clinic 404-881-1858
700 14th Street
Atlanta, GA 30318
www.benmasselldentalclinic.org
Volunteer dentists
POPULATION SERVED: All low income persons in metro Atlanta area
AGES: Adults age 18 and up for routine dental care. School-age children ages 6 – 15 for orthodontics only
SERVICES OFFERED: Dental/non-emergencies only. No walk-ins. As of Jan 2017-No dentures or partials for new patients.
FEE: $2 to register; $2 per visit; $5 denture registration; $75 startup fee for braces. Orthodontic work for braces is on a next available basis.
Registration- via phone based lottery

Dr. John Muse 404-378-2331
755 Commerce Drive, Suite A
Decatur, GA 30030
POPULATION SERVED: Accepts some special needs patients. Consults based on needs and treatment
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Oral surgery
FEE: Services must be paid for on the day of service, will file for dental insurance to reimburse the patient

**Oral Surgery Associates & Dental Implant Centers** 770-981-9400
5243 Snapfinger Woods Drive, Suite 106
Decatur, GA  30035
POPULATION SERVED: Accepts special needs patients
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Oral Surgery
FEE: Medicare, Medicaid, most private insurance plans

**O’Shea and O’Shea Cosmetic and Family Dentistry** 404-373-7818
755 Commerce Drive, Suite 520
Decatur, GA  30030
POPULATION SERVED: Accept special needs patients
AGES: 3 – senior adult
SERVICES OFFERED: Dental services
FEE: Fees must be paid on the day of service, no Medicaid, no PeachCare (not a plan participant)

**PeachCare for Kids** 404-463-8369
Georgia Department of Community Health 1-877-427-3224
2 Peachtree Street, NW www.peachcare.org
Atlanta, GA  30303
POPULATION SERVED: PeachCare is a comprehensive health care program for uninsured children through the age of 18. To be eligible, children cannot qualify for Medicaid and must live in households with income at or below 247% of the Federal poverty level. Must be a US citizen or fall within an eligible legal immigrant category. AGES: Birth – 18 (eligible until 19th birthday)
SERVICES OFFERED: Preventative care insurance, check-ups, immunizations, sick care insurance, specialist care insurance, dental care insurance, vision care insurance, hospitalization insurance, emergency room insurance, mental health care insurance, prescription medicine, choice of over 4,000 GA Better Health Care doctors
FEE: children 0 – 5 free, children 6 – 18 $10.00 per month, $20.00 maximum per month for children in the same family

**Dr. Wesley Powell (Dentistry for Children and Teens)  770-934-5900**
2244 Henderson Mill Road
Atlanta, GA  30345
POPULATION SERVED: Accepts patients with special needs
AGES: 3 – 18 years old
SERVICES OFFERED: Pediatric dentistry
FEE: Accepts private insurance, no Medicaid, no PeachCare, no HMO plans accepted

**Dr. Dai Minh Le Nguyen  404-294-4012**
1183 South Hairston Road, Suite B
Stone Mountain, GA  30088
POPULATION SERVED: Accepts patients with special needs
AGES: 4 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Dental services
FEE: Accepts private insurance, Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, accepts most insurance

**Veal Dental Care  770-395-1155**
1867 Independence Square, Suite 104
Dunwoody, GA  30338
POPULATION SERVED: Accepts patients with special needs
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Dental services
FEE: Accepts private insurance, does not accept Medicaid or PeachCare

**Wilkins Family Dentistry  404-292-2900**
5468 Memorial Drive, Suite A
Stone Mountain, GA  30083
POPULATION SERVED: Accepts patients with special needs
AGES: 3 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Dental services
FEE: Accepts private insurance, accepts Medicaid or PeachCare
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

CHRIS 180                     404-4869034
1017 Fayetteville Rd SE                      (Fax) 404-486-9053
Atlanta, GA  30316                      www.chris180.org

POPULATION SERVED: Metro Atlanta; abused/neglected children and adolescents AGES: 6 – 24 years
SERVICES OFFERED: Residential therapeutic group homes and residential independent living program, individual and family counseling, in-home crisis services, and behavioral aide to work on different treatment issues FEE: Varies, some insurance companies will provide for the cost, Medicaid id
DeKalb Community Service Board
www.dekcsb.org
Developmental Evaluation Clinic
440 Winn Way
Decatur, GA  30030
POPULATION SERVED:  DeKalb County residents with severe and sustained disabilities that result in serious impairments in basic life functioning
AGES:  All
SERVICES OFFERED:  Diagnostics, psychological services to include behavior support, individual counseling, short term crisis intervention, psychiatric assessment and care
FEE:  Sliding scale, Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance

DeKalb Community Service Board
Mental Health Services
www.dekcsb.org
Central Access 404-892-4646
POPULATION SERVED:  DeKalb County residents with severe and sustained disabilities that result in serious impairments in basic life functioning.  Referrals through Region Three DBHDD
AGES:  4 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED:  Outpatient mental health services; limited day treatment; limited group homes; individual, group and family counseling; case management; crisis intervention; jail services
FEE:  Sliding scale, Medicaid, Medicare, PeachCare, private insurance

LOCATIONS:  Call the Central Access Number (404-892-4646) to reach an individual location.
Clifton Springs Mental Health
3110 Clifton Springs Road
Decatur, GA  30034

DeKalb Regional Crisis Center
450 Winn Way
Decatur, GA 30030

Jail Services
3630 Camp Circle
Decatur, GA  30032

Kirkwood Mental Health
23 Warren Street SE
Atlanta, GA  30317

North DeKalb Mental Health
3807 Clairmont Road
Chamblee, GA  30341

Winn Way Mental Health
445 Winn Way
Decatur, GA 30030
Limited services for hearing impaired
Mental Health programs through the courts

**Emory University Psychological Center**  
Emory University  
36 Eagle Row  
Atlanta, GA  30322

**POPULATION SERVED:** All in metro Atlanta area

**AGES:** All

**SERVICES OFFERED:** Psychological/special education assessments; therapy and counseling; educational/intellectual testing; individual, group and family counseling. Some services depend on the severity of the disability.

**FEE:** Sliding scale (does not accept any insurance)
Georgia Parent Support Network
1381 Metropolitan Parkway
Atlanta, GA  30310
Single point of entry to the Mental Health System
Populations Served: Individuals who have an intellectual disability or mental illness; emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families, individuals with substance abuse
Ages: Birth to 26 years
Services Offered: Upon appropriate referral: Advocacy, advice, respite services, parent support and information and therapeutic foster care. A free quarterly newsletter is available upon request.
Fee: No fee to parents

Hillside Hospital
690 Courtenay Drive
Atlanta, GA  30306
Populations Served: Residents of Georgia including individuals who have a moderate intellectual disability
Ages: 7–21 years
Services Offered: Residential psychiatric treatment; individual and group counseling; diagnostic/evaluation services; educational and vocational program; family and social skills counseling
Fee: Call to inquire

The Link Counseling Center, Inc.
348 Mount Vernon Highway NE
Sandy Springs, GA  30328
Populations Served: Metro Atlanta
Ages: All
Services Offered: Counseling/psychotherapy; information and referral; community education and support groups; professional training and consultation; suicide prevention and after-care; family counseling
FEE: Sliding scale (No insurance accepted)

**Odyssey Family Counseling Center**
404-762-9190
1919 John Wesley Avenue
College Park, GA 30337
(FAX) 404-762-9101
www.odysseycounseling.org
POPULATION SERVED: All
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Adult/adolescent substance abuse treatment; substance abuse prevention and education; family therapy and marriage counseling; child abuse/sexual abuse/incest counseling; stress management, school problems
FEE: Sliding scale, private insurance

**RECREATIONAL/LEISURE SERVICES**

**Best Buddies Headquarters**
305-374-2233
100 Southeast Second St.
(FAX) 305-789-5577
Suite 2200
Miami, FL 33131
www.bestbuddies.org
Local: Jessica Yakubowicz
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have an intellectual disability. It is desired that the individuals possess appropriate social skills and the ability to communicate verbally. Independence in ambulation is highly desired. With assistance from family members, it is open to those individuals who use a wheelchair for mobility. AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: The facilitation of mutual friendships among individuals with intellectual disabilities in middle/high schools with college students, corporate and civic communities. Best Buddies is an international, non-profit organization headquartered Florida. The Best Buddies School chapters in Georgia are Agnes Scott College, Emory University, Georgia College and State University, and Georgia Southern University.
FEE: None

**DeKalb County Parks & Recreation Dept.**
404-679-1349
Special Population Section
1340 McConnell Drive
Decatur, GA 30033
(FAX) 404-679-5901
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a physical and/or intellectual disability
AGES: 13 years through adulthood with the majority of the programs geared for teens and adults
SERVICES OFFERED: Young Adult Social Club, summer camps, softball, bowling, volleyball and basketball. Super strikers Bowling League, DeKalb-Softball teams, field trips and preparation for Special Olympics. Call to receive quarterly brochures with updated schedules of events.
FEE: Minimal fees for some programs

Great Prospects
1425 Market Blvd., Suite 330-135
Roswell, GA 30076
www.greatprospectsinc.org

770-314-4243
404-374-3634

POPULATION: Individuals who have a mild or moderate intellectual disability
AGES: Adolescent to young adult SERVICES OFFERED:
Pre-Academy- Minimum age 18- Transition from high school- Opportunity to try out the Academy to determine whether it is a good fit Career Connections Academy- Minimum age 22- a post-secondary educational option that focuses on Social Skills training, exploration of workplace options, community service and planning for an independent future Connections Academy –Summer and School Breaks for students in high school.
Social Connections- once a month socials and dances
FEE: Call to inquire about fees
Happy Club Metropolitan Atlanta YMCA

Cowart Family/Ashford Dunwoody YMCA -
3692 Ashford Dunwoody Rd. Atlanta, Ga. 30319 404-610-4008
Chapter Coordinator: Julia Versteegh -
dunwoodyhappyclub@gmail.com

Decatur-DeKalb YMCA -
1100 Clairemont Ave. Decatur, Ga. 30305 404-377-9622
Chapter Coordinator: Jennifer Durham
decaturhappyclub@gmail.com

South DeKalb Family YMCA 2565 678-418-3504
Snapfinger Rd. Decatur, Ga. 30034 Chapter Coordinator:
southdekalbhappyclub@gmail.com

Wade Walker Park Family YMCA 678-781-9622
5605 Rockbridge Rd. Stone Mountain, Ga. 30088
Chapter Coordinator: Tracey Benson

POPULATION SERVED: Teens and adults with developmental disabilities
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides opportunities to continue to develop socialization and community skills. Provides enjoyable, beneficial, and challenging activities. Brings people with developmental disabilities into the larger society under conditions where they are accepted, respected and able to participate in the community
FEE: $ 40 program membership per year and minimal fees for events

Blonder Family Department for Developmental Disabilities at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta
5342 Tilly Mill Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338
blonder@atlantajcc.org
www.atlantajcc.org/blonder

The Blonder Family department for Special Needs creates a place for individuals of all backgrounds and abilities to socialize, learn, grow and deepen their connections to one another and the community.

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability
AGES: 5 years through adulthood

SERVICES OFFERED: Adult Programs: range from team and individual sports with the SOAR Program, exciting day and overnight trips, social and cultural events like dances, movie nights, museum trips, and holiday celebrations. Educational programs to learn and practice important life skills.

Ruth B. Jackson Transition Program: young adults with Autism get to develop independence and friendships, while contributing to their community in a safe and supportive environment. Transition participants might volunteer at a local organization, meet up to plan and make a meal, work out together, go to the movies or out to eat.

Jerry’s Habima Theatre Cultural Life Experiences Georgia’s only theatrical company whose cast features actors with developmental disabilities, performs a full-scale musical production every year. Performers are a unified cast made up of individuals with and without disabilities. Classes are periodically offered on improve, singing and basics of acting and auditioning. Inclusion Program: children in preschool through high school are able to participate in the same programs as their typical peers. Inclusion offerings cover a wide variety of activities, including dance, gymnastics, tennis, sports, after-school programs, and summer day camp.

FEE: Vary according to the program offered. All programs are non-sectarian.

The Reece Center for Handicapped Horsemanship
Wade Wheeler
8280 Wilkerson Mill Road
Palmetto, GA 30268
www.reececenter.org

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a physical and/or mental disability
AGES: 6 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Recreational riding program. Saturday only program. Family oriented
FEE: A maintenance fee is required. The price varies from year to year. The purchase of a helmet is necessary after the first quarter.

S.A.S.S.Y.  
South DeKalb Association  
For Super Special Youth  
5301 Snapfinger Park Dr.  
Decatur, GA  30035

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability
AGES: School age and older
SERVICES OFFERED: SASSY works in collaboration with the DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Special Populations Division. Opportunities offered include social clubs, fund raising opportunities, and a variety of sport activities. Overall, SASSY provides a broad array of supports to individuals with special needs and their parents including recreation, social and life skills, community awareness, and inclusion opportunities. Visit website above
FEE: $45.00 annual membership

Sensations Therafun  
1704 Chantilly Dr.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30324

AGES: All ages will find plenty of fun and rewarding activities at Sensations.
SERVICES OFFERED: It is designed especially for sensory recreation. It is great for kids who have Autism, are on the Autism Spectrum, have Sensory Processing Disorders, ADHD, Down’s Syndrome, Asperger’s Syndrome and all children who need sensory recreation. To kids, we are a giant playground, and as they play, are getting part of their ‘sensory diet’.
FEE: Varies depending on activity/ membership- Insurance: We accept payments from AADD, GCSS, and Accumen.

Special K’s  
Special Olympics Georgia  
Debbie Currere, Management Team Chair  
142 Teal Court  
Roswell, GA  30076

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability
AGES: 8 years and up
SERVICES OFFERED: Special Olympics sports training in North Fulton. Training is conducted seasonally and includes bowling, power lifting, basketball, track, aquatics, tennis, golf, bocce, long distance walking, Master’s Bowling, etc.
FEE: None

Special Olympics Masters
770-414-9390x1109 1-800-866-4400
6046 Financial Drive
Norcross, GA 30071
Phillip.Braley@SpecialOlympicsGA.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disabilty
AGES: 22 years and up
SERVICES OFFERED: Training is conducted seasonally and includes alpine skiing, aquatics, athletics, badminton, basketball, bowling, cycling, power lifting, track, tennis, golf, bocce, long distance walking, flag football, roller skating, softball, etc.
FEE: Call to inquire about fees

Special Pops Tennis
770-998-7826
http://specialpopstennis.org
Location: Programs offered throughout Metro Atlanta
Population Served: Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
Ages: Programs geared for individuals 8 years old and up
Services Offered: Tennis lessons for recreational or competitive play experiences, new friendships are encouraged, Healthy food choices are discussed, No prior tennis playing experience required, Tennis equipment is made available

VSA Arts of Georgia
415 Plasters Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30324
404-221-1270
www.vsaartsga.org
POPULATION SERVED: All disabilities
AGES: Pre-k through adult
SERVICES OFFERED: VSA Arts of Georgia provides access to the arts for people with disabilities and families with low income. We are a statewide resource working with artists and organizations to fulfill our vision of an inclusive community that encourages everyone to enjoy and participate in the arts.
FEE: Most services free

SUMMER PROGRAMS:

Information is available on summer recreation programs through the
Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) 678-676-2400
1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard www.metroeastglrs.org
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

The GLRS Summer Camp and Respite online Directory is updated approximately every two years and is available online at:
www.metroeastglrs.org (under the resources tab)
FEE: None

Numerous summer camp opportunities are listed on the
American Camp Association 765-342-8456
ACA Southeastern 1-800-428-2267
463 Johnny Mercer Blvd, Suite B-7 #286 (FAX) 1-704-288-4402
Savannah, GA 31410 www.acacamps.org/southeastern
The find a camp options allows you to select camps that specialize in special populations
RESPITE CARE SERVICES

Childcare Resource & Referral of Metro Atlanta          404-479-4233
“Quality Care for Children”                      (FAX) 404-479-4166
2751 Buford Highway, Suite 500           www.allgakids.org
Atlanta, GA 30324
POPULATION SERVED: Children in need of childcare or after school care
AGES: 0-18 years
SERVICES OFFERED: Parent, counselor, & telephone referral service. Assistance is provided to families of children with special needs and assistance with inclusion.
FEE: None

Developmental Disabilities Ministries, Inc.          770-623-4899
6320 Amherst Court, Suite 100     (FAX) 770-903-4991 Norcross, GA
30092       www.ddmga.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities
AGES: 18 through Adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Respite, Community Residential Alternative Service, Community Living Support
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

Friend of the Family          770-725-2748
1 Huntington Rd, Suite 702             www.afriend.com
Athens, GA  30606
POPULATION SERVED: All families
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Occasionally, temporary childcare and eldercare. Also offers long-term live-in/live-out childcare and eldercare
FEE: All fees apply to members. There is a $150 membership fee plus daily referral fee. The daily referral fee ranges between $15-30. A negotiable caregiver rate ranges between $11-15/hr. Emergency sick care is available for a slightly higher fee. For same day care, there is a $30 fee. Please call for additional information.
Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
2 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 26-246
Atlanta, GA 30303
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Respite resource directories and quarterly respite newsletters available upon request
FEE: None

Jewish Family & Career Services
Respite Care Program
4549 Chamblee Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, GA 30338
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities
AGES: 3 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Respite coordinated with approved providers for inhome or host family opportunities
FEE: Medicaid Waiver only

Metropolitan Atlanta Respite Cooperative
Lead agency:
Georgia Community Supports & Solutions
1945 Cliff Valley Way, Suite 220
Atlanta, GA 30329
POPULATION SERVED: Anyone with a documented developmental disability
AGES: 3 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: In home, host family, group home, and facilitybased group home respite care through a cooperative of 4 agencies
FEE: Sliding fee scale
Robert Chadwick Respite Program: 770-942-1131
Douglas County Retardation Association (FAX) 770-920-6701
www.douglascountyretardation.org
Location: Business Address:
6497 E. Strickland Street P. O. Box 1318
Douglasville, GA 30134 Douglasville, GA 30134
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with a developmental disability AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Weekend respite services for the metro area FEE: Sliding scale; reservations needed

Right In The Community 770-427-8401
1830 Water Place, Suite 120 (FAX) 770-427-8402
Atlanta, GA 30339 www.rightinthecommunity.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability; must have a developmental disability with a diagnosis of an intellectual disability AGES: 6 years and older
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides weekend respite care. Through MARC will provide weekend respite or referral to independent respite care providers, also has a respite care home and 22 group homes. Provides referrals for day programs and summer camps, advocacy, and assistance with Medicaid Waiver applications FEE: Sliding scale, grant money, Medicaid Waiver

Shepherd Pathways Respite Care 404-248-1667
1942 Clairmont Road www.shepherd.org
Decatur, GA 30033
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with a brain injury or other neurological conditions AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Respite care from one to 14 days. The setting provides a private or semi-private room in a safe and secure community living environment in a 24,000 square-foot facility in Decatur, Georgia. This facility is home to Shepherd Pathways, a post-acute residential brain injury program. FEE: Varies according to the level of care that is required. The cost is determined during the completion of the admission screening.
SUPPORT SERVICES

This list of resources has been selected with your primary needs in mind. It is in no way intended to be complete. Rather, it is a tool to get you started in your search.

The following agencies are sources of information or referral services. If you need a service and do not know where to go, call one of the following and ask them to assist you.

American Foundation for the Blind 404-525-2303
100 Peachtree Street, Suite 2145
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.afb.org
POPULATION SERVED: Any individual who is blind or visually impaired and for professionals who work with these people and their families
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Information and free referral services for blind and visually impaired individuals and their families, publications including guides for consumers and professionals are available for individuals to use on site. Publications are available for purchase from the American Foundation for the Blind in New York.
FEE: None

The ARC of Georgia 470-222-6088
P O Box 91051
Atlanta, GA 30064
FAX) 1-844-228-0521
www.ga.thearc.org
e-mail:sramirez@thearc.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental and/or intellectual disability
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Has local networks within some counties as well as a national organization. Resource for information on all disorders. Provides advocacy and education. Sponsors public information programs and gives referrals
FEE: None for information. Membership fees to join: $20.00 for a family, $15.00 for an individual, or $5.00 for a self-advocate

Autism Resource Center at Emory University 404-727-8350
1551 Shoup Court
Decatur, GA 30030
(FAX) 404-727-3969
POPULATION SERVED: Persons with autism spectrum disorders
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides family support, treatment, diagnostic and medication evaluations, school consultations and professional training. Provides resources for families throughout the state of Georgia. Provides a preschool program for children with autism ages 18 months through 5 years
FEE: Charge based on service required

Benefits Navigator
1-866-772-2726
Shepherd Center
404-350-7589
2020 Peachtree Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465
(TTY) 404-367-1347
www.benefitsnavigator.com
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or both, and who are interested in pursuing work goals
AGES: 14-65
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides information on how becoming employed affects social security benefits and/or state benefits, work incentives such as the PASS, the Trial Work Period and Impairment-Related Work Expenses, and other programs and services that can help individuals with disabilities create a plan for successful employment. Provides individual counseling sessions along with information to groups, organizations, and agencies that provide services to people with disabilities
FEE: None. It is a free service funded by the Social Security Administration.

Bobby Dodd Institute
(Formerly) AADD—All About Developmental Disabilities
404-881-9777
125 Clairmont Avenue, Suite 300
Decatur, GA 30030
www.aadd.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability
AGES: 3 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides information and referral services, disbursement of information through an online newsletter, directory of services, supported employment, and family support services
FEE: None
Center for Assistive Technology & Environmental Assess (CATEA)  404-894-4960
Georgia Institute of Technology  1-800-726-9119
512 Means Street, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA  30318
POPULATION SERVED: All individuals who have a disability  AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Serves as an information clearing-house for statewide service providers as well as assistive products and devices
FEE: Charge based on service required

Center for the Visually Impaired  404-875-9011
739 West Peachtree Street  www.cviga.org
Atlanta, GA  30308
POPULATION SERVED: Blind and visually impaired  AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Information and referral, rehabilitation training in the center and community, vocational evaluation, work adjustment and job placement, low vision clinic, program for pre-school and school-aged children, education and counseling for diabetics, support groups. Audio described videos are loaned free of charge.
FEE: Sliding scale

The Center for Financial Independence  404-541-9005
and Innovation (FAX) 1-888-724-2287
315 W Ponce deLeon, Suite 600  http://thecfii.org
Decatur, GA  30030
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with all types of disabilities  AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Georgia’s only Alternative Financing Program that provides low-interest loans through participating credit unions to enable Georgians with disabilities access to affordable financing for Assistive Technology and Home and Vehicle Modifications.
FEE: None

Childkind  404-248-1980
3107 Clairmont Road NE           www.childkind.org
Atlanta, GA  30329
POPULATION SERVED: Children with complex medical and/or
developmental disabilities
AGES: 0-21
SERVICES OFFERED: Family Placement for children in state custody or
those at risk of institutionalization, Supportive Care Coordination, and Family
Support Services. Connects parents to community and neighborhood
resources. Provides Foster Homes and Host Homes for ages 0-21. Offers
community trainings (Disability Awareness 101) on resources, system
navigation, and access to Medicaid Waivers. FEE: Medicaid Waiver and
grant funded programming

DeKalb County Schools Parent Mentor Program  678-676-1897
East DeKalb Campus (FAX) 678-676-1888
5839 Memorial Drive
Stone Mountain, GA  30083
POPULATION SERVED: Children with disabilities who attend DeKalb
County schools
AGES: 3-21
SERVICES OFFERED: Assists families in locating information and
resources, provides workshops for families of children who receive special
education services regarding special education and transition issues, support to
the professionals who serve these children, and provides confidential support
for parental questions.
FEE: None

DisAbility Link  404-687-8890
1901 Montreal Road, Suite 102  470-395-2254
Tucker, GA  30084           www.disabilitylink.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with all types of disabilities
AGES: 16 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Serves 13 counties in Georgia, and is a center for
Disability Rights and independent living issues. Their core services are
advocacy, teaching of independent living skills, peer support groups,
mentoring, information and referral, and employment services.
FEE: None
Disability Resource Group 770-451-2340
4164 Admiral Drive www.gaada.info
Chamblee, GA 30341 www.disabilityresource.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with all types of disabilities in Georgia
AGES: All ages
SERVICES OFFERED: Answer questions about disability rights, help people look at options, consultation and workshops about disability issues FEE: Sliding fee for workshops, consultation for individuals with disabilities is free

Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta 404-320-3233
4355 J Cobb Pkwy #213 www.dsaatl.org
Atlanta, GA 30339
POPULATION SERVED: Parents and families of children with Down syndrome AGES: All ages
SERVICES OFFERED: The Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta is a non-profit organization dedicated to support, early intervention, education, awareness and advocacy to families of children with Down syndrome. FEE: $25 per year per household or lifetime payment of $250 per household. Parents of a newborn receive the first year’s membership free. Full or partial scholarships are available upon request for anyone with a financial hardship.

Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS) 770-234-9111
3825 Presidential Pkwy, Suite 103 (FAX) 770-234-9131 www.focus-ga.org
Atlanta, GA 30340
POPULATION SERVED: All developmental disabilities
AGES: Birth – age 29
SERVICES OFFERED: Offers support and information to parents through support groups, workshops, and hospital visits. Another service is Community Respite care for children.
FEE: Varies. Membership fee is $15.00 but can be waived

Georgia Advocacy Office, Inc. 404-885-1234
One West Court Square, Suite 625 1-800-537-2329
Decatur, GA  30030  (FAX) 404-378-0031
www.thegao.org

POPULATION SERVED:  All disabilities
AGES:  All
SERVICES OFFERED:  Protects and advocates for individuals who have a disability
FEE:  No

Georgia Council
For the Hearing Impaired, Inc.
TTY/Voice 404-292-5312
4151 Memorial Drive, Suite 103B
Decatur, GA  30032
TTY/Voice 1-800-541-0710
(FAX) 404-299-3642
www.gachi.org

POPULATION SERVED:  All individuals who have a hearing deficit
AGES:  All
SERVICES OFFERED:  Advocacy, information and referral. Community education. GED/ABE preparatory classes
FEE:  Membership open to the public

Georgia Health Partnership
P.O. Box 4000  1-800-766-4456
McRae, GA  31055

POPULATION SERVED:  Low income and individuals with a physical and/or developmental disability. Eligibility determined by Social Security Office or DeKalb County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
AGES:  There is not a minimum age for SSI/Medicaid; however, there are restrictions that will determine at what age your child becomes eligible for these benefits.
SERVICES OFFERED:  Customer service for current members for any problems with Medicaid or PeachCare
FEE:  None

Georgia Learning Resources System
678-676-2400
(Metro East)  678-676-2417
1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard  (FAX) 770-939-5731
Stone Mountain, GA  30083 www.metroeastglrs.org

POPULATION SERVED:  Parents and/or professionals who work with individuals who have a developmental disability
AGES: Adults
SERVICES OFFERED: Maintains a library of videos, books, publications, instructional kits and adapted toys for check-out and loan. Provides workshops and in-services and serves as an information and referral service. A summer recreation guide is available online at: www.aadd.org/files/advocacy/education.html. Click on AADD listing. FEE: Small charge for materials made in Production Center (cash only)

Georgia Parent Support Network
1381 Metropolitan Parkway
Atlanta, GA  30310
1-800-832-8645  404-758-4500
(FAX) 404-777-7833
www.gpsn.org

POPULATION SERVED: Children and youth who have an intellectual disability or mental illness; emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families, children and youth with substance abuse
AGES: Birth to 25 years
SERVICES OFFERED: Upon appropriate referral: Advocacy, advice, respite services, parent support and information and therapeutic foster care. A free quarterly newsletter is available upon request.
FEE: No fee to parents

Georgia Telecommunications Equipment & Distribution Program
4151 Memorial Drive, Suite 103B
Decatur, GA  30032
1-800-541-0710  404-299-3642
www.gachi.org

POPULATION SERVED: Deaf, hearing impaired, speech impaired, and deafblind consumers in the state of Georgia
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides free telephone equipment to deaf, hearing impaired and speech impaired consumers in the state of Georgia. If the consumer qualifies for the program and is a Georgia resident, the equipment is free on a loaner program. Must call for an application
FEE: None

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
404-657-2126
(FAX) 404-657-2132
Marcus Autism Center
404-785-9400
1920 Briarcliff Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30329
www.marcus.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a developmental disability and their families. Some disability areas require a physician referral.
AGES: Birth – 17 years
SERVICES OFFERED: The Marcus Autism Center offers children comprehensive care to provide diagnosis, treatment and care management for a complete range of mild to severe disabilities including: developmental delays, learning disabilities, high-risk infants, severe behavior management, genetic syndromes, pediatric feeding disorders, cerebral palsy, domestic and international adoption evaluation, autism/pervasive developmental disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and foster care assessment.
FEE: Depends on services provided, commercial insurance, self-pay, Medicaid and PeachCare accepted, no HMO

Parent to Parent of Georgia, Inc.
770-451-5484
3070 Presidential Parkway, Suite 130
Atlanta, GA 30340
1-800-229-2038
www.p2pga.org
POPULATION SERVED: All disabilities including rare disorders and chronic or terminal illness
AGES: Parents of children ages 0 – 26
SERVICES OFFERED: Matches parents with trained support parents. Has developed a comprehensive information system, which includes up-to-date information on disabilities including rare disorders and community resources and provides over 5000 community resources for parents in Georgia. Can be accessed by phone or on their web site
FEE: None

Parents Educating Parents & Professionals (PEPP, Inc.)
770-577-7771
8355 Cherokee Blvd, Suite 100
(FAX) 770-557-7774
Douglasville, GA 30134  www.peppinc.org
POPULATION SERVED: All Georgia children who have a developmental disability
AGES: 3 years to 24 years
SERVICES OFFERED: Assists parents and professionals in matters with respect to government regulations, provisions, and allotments under IDEA. Also provides training to parents in the form of meetings, workshops, support groups and individual assistance
FEE: Case by Case/Regional fees

Plan of Georgia, Inc.  404-634-0094
270 CARPENTER Drive, Suite 200-F  (FAX) 404-634-5255
Atlanta, GA  30328  info@planofgeorgia.org
POPULATION SERVED: People with mental and physical disabilities, including mental illness, intellectual disabilities, brain injury, autism and at-risk elderly in the metropolitan Atlanta area AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Assist families in developing long term care plans. Help families identify resources needed for long term care. Provide individualized case management and can act as the representative payee if needed
FEE: Private pay only. $75 per hour plus travel time and mileage (½ hour minimum), no Medicaid or Medicare

Touch the Future  info@touchthefuture.us
Re-Boot & ATRC  770-934-8432
(The Assistive Technology Resource Center)  www.touchthefuture.us
1456 McLendon Drive, Suite A
Decatur, GA  30033
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with all types of disabilities
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: Reboot is a computer recycling program that repairs and rebuilds donated equipment and distributes them to individuals with disabilities. Training is included. ATRC Project provides AT (assistive technology) solutions, which includes information, advocacy, assessment and training. This is a demonstration site with individual training focused on learning independence skills and which includes work programs.
FEE: Varies. Some programs are free, others cost, depends on the service

Region Three DBHDD Office  404-244-5050
3073 Panthersville Road, Building 10  404-244-5056
Decatur, GA  30034  (FAX) 404-244-5179
dbhdd.georgia.gov

POPULATION SERVED: Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale residents with mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases issues
AGES: All
SERVICES OFFERED: DBHDD provides treatment and support services to people with mental illnesses and addictive diseases, and support to people with intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities. DBHDD serves people of all ages with the most severe and likely to be long-term conditions, including consumers with forensic issues. Services are provided across the state through contracts with 25 community service boards, boards of health and various private providers, and through state-operated regional hospitals. The office does not provide direct services.
FEE: None

Social Security Administration
4365 Shackelford Road
Norcross, GA 30093
www.socialsecurity.gov
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals who have a physical or intellectual disability
AGES: There is not a minimum age for SSI (Supplemental Security Income); however, there are restrictions that will determine at what age your child becomes eligible for these benefits.
SERVICES OFFERED: A child with a disability may be eligible for a monthly income as well as Medicaid. Refer to the SSI and Medicaid section of this manual. FEE: None

United Way of Greater Atlanta
100 Edgewood Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.unitedwayatlanta.org
POPULATION SERVED: Residents in Butts, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale counties AGES: All ages
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides comprehensive information and referral in a range of areas. Directs callers to appropriate resources needed. Can dial 2-1-1 to access an operator. Service is available 24 hours a day.
FEE: None

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
MARTA provides accessible public transportation through bus and rail service to residents and visitors in Fulton and DeKalb counties and the City of Atlanta regardless of age or disability.

**Reduced Fare Breeze Cards**
Lindbergh Marta Headquarters
Five Points Station
Reduced-fare Breeze cards are available free for individuals with disabilities with proper proof of the disability. These reduced-fare Breeze cards allow individuals to ride for $1 per trip at all hours of bus and rail service. Reduced-fare Breeze cards may be obtained at the Five Points Station or Lindbergh Marta Headquarters (located across the street from the Lindberg Station). Office hours are 9a.m.-12a.m. and 2p.m.-4p.m. Monday-Friday. The office is closed from 12 noon-2p.m.

**MARTA Mobility**
MARTA Mobility is designed to accommodate the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities who cannot use, or get to the fixed route (bus and rail) system. This service is comparable to the level of accessible service provided to individuals without disabilities who use the fixed route system. In order to determine eligibility, MARTA must have an application for service on file. You must request that a MARTA Mobility application be sent to you.

**Alterman/JETS Transportation Services**
4549 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd
Atlanta, GA 30338
[www.YourToolsForLiving.org](http://www.YourToolsForLiving.org)

POPULATION: Older adults and adults with disabilities
AGE: 18 and older
PROVIDES: Transportation for older adults and adults with disabilities to and from work, medical appointments, and social and recreational outings. JETS serves parts of Fulton, DeKalb, and Cobb Counties.
FEE: Please contact JETS dispatchers at 770-677-9339 for fee structure

**Care-Go**
Daniel Moore                    678-428-8425
541 10th St NW Suite 495       Daniel@care-go-atl.com
Atlanta, GA 30318              www.care-go-atl.com
Provides: Special drivers to fit your needs. On-demand transportation services.

South East Transportation      404-209-4000
Southeastrans, Inc.             678-510-4600
4751 Best Road, Suite 140      www.southeastrans.com
Atlanta, GA 30337
PROVIDES: South East Transportation is the primary agency to call for transportation assistance for Medicaid recipients. Service is provided for doctor and therapy appointments, prescriptions and other medical-related services. A provider will be assigned or you may make a request.

OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS TO CONSIDER:
  • carpool with co-workers or friends
  • church members
  • retired people
  • refer to yellow pages for additional sources under Transportation: Personal, wheelchairs, and Special Needs Transportation, Taxicabs, Lyft, Uber
  • search the web for special needs transportation
What are Community Access (Day Support) Services?

Community Access Services (Day Support Services) are designed to assist the participant in acquiring, retaining, or improving self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills required for active participation and independent functioning outside the participant’s home or family home. It can take place during the day, the evening or the weekend.

What are Prevocational Services?

Prevocational Services prepare a participant for paid or unpaid employment and include teaching such concepts as compliance, attendance, task completion, problem solving, social interaction skills and safety.

What is Specialized Employment?

Specialized employment is the employment of significantly disabled persons in either facility or community settings with intensive and ongoing support. The individuals may be paid at less than minimum wage. Specialized employment requires a minimum of 10 hours of employment per week within the facility or in the community.

Art of Living
4892 North Royal Atlanta Drive  
www.artoflivingga.com  Tucker, GA 30084
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities, multiple disabilities and challenging behavior
AGES: 20 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Community residential Alternative (CRA), Community Living Support, Community Access Services, Supported Employment, and Respite are available for individuals living in homes or other residential arrangements. FEE: Medicaid Waiver
CHOICE Program

2277 S. Stone Mountain Lithonia Rd.
Lithonia, GA  30058

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities who are DeKalb County residents. Referrals through Region 3 DBHDD

AGES: 22 years through adulthood

SERVICES OFFERED: Community Access Services and Prevocational Services are provided to increase community inclusion for adults with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities. Prevocational Services, training and support includes volunteer experiences in the community, based upon the preference and choice of the individual. Program hours are Monday through Friday, 6 hours a day. Also provide Community Access Individual Services (CAI). FEE: Medicaid Waiver

DeKalb Enterprises

1569 Stoneridge Drive
Stone Mountain, GA  30083

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities who are DeKalb County residents. Referrals through Region Three DBHDD

AGES: 22 years through adulthood

SERVICES OFFERED: Sheltered employment contract work with transition to community-based employment and supported employment. Program hours are Monday through Friday, 6 hours a day.

FEE: Medicaid Waiver
DeKalb Community Service Board (DCSB)          404-231-9363
Service Center               www.dekcsb.org
2660 Osborne Road NE
Atlanta, GA  30319
POPULATION SERVED:  Individuals with intellectual disabilities and
developmental disabilities who are DeKalb County residents.  Referral through Region Three DBHDD
AGES:  22 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED:  Community Access Services and Prevocational Services are provided.  Support services include specialized therapies, behavior management, nursing, case coordination, and assistance with transportation and activity programs for older adults. Program hours are Monday through Friday, 6 hours a day.
FEE:  Medicaid Waiver

DPCH, LLC                  770-987-8301
5305 Snapfinger Woods Drive           www.demburepch.com
Decatur, GA 30035
POPULATION SERVED:  Adults with developmental disabilities
AGES:  21 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED:  Day program that includes Community Access Services.
FEE:  Medicaid Waiver, private pay

Foundation of Exceptional Achievers  770-986-4881
2305 West Park Place Blvd.        (FAX) 770-986-4882
Stone Mountain, GA  30087
POPULATION SERVED:  Individuals with developmental disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, schizophrenia, mental illness, mental health, dual diagnosis, and physical disabilities
AGES:  18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED:  Personal and social adjustment, Community Access Services, Prevocational Services, and Supported Employment are provided.
FEE:  Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid Waiver, and private pay with Sliding Scale fees
The Frazer Center
1815 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30307
404-377-3836
(FAX) 404-373-0058
www.thefrazercenter.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with all types of disabilities
AGES: 22 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Individual Service Plan (ISP), Community Access Services (Group and Individual), Prevocational Service, Work Evaluations, and Supported Employment
FEE: Medicaid Waiver or Private Pay. Supported Employment may initially be funded by Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

Great Prospects
142 Teal Court
Roswell, GA 30076
770-722-6250
404-374-3634
www.greatprospectsinc.org
POPULATION: Individuals who have a mild or moderate intellectual disability
AGES: Adolescent to young adult
SERVICES OFFERED:
Club Connect- after school programming
Career Connections Academy- a post-secondary educational option that focuses on Career Exploration (work readiness) and Self-Exploration (self-advocacy)
Camp Connect- 10 weeks of themed based summer day camp
Social Connections- once a month socials and dances
FEE: Call to inquire about fees

Jewish Family & Career Services
Tools for Independence WORKS
4549 Chamblee Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, GA 30330
770-677-9450
770-677-9300
www.yourtoolsforliving.org
POPULATION SERVED: Adults with developmental disabilities
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Day program that includes community activities, volunteerism, and structured curriculum; prevocational program that includes volunteer and work experience in community-based environments, vocational evaluation, supported employment, and disability awareness consultation
FEE: Medicaid Waiver. May initially be funded by Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.
Rehabilitation Agency. Charges a fee for extended support

**KES, Inc.**

770-484-2112

6615 Tribble Street

Lithonia, GA 30058

**http://www.kesinc.org**

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities

AGES: 14 years through adulthood

SERVICES OFFERED: Community Residential Alternative Services, Community Living Support Services, Community Access Services, natural supports, summer camp, and Supported Employment Services

FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

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**LoveNCare Healthcare Services**

770-360-5683

4562 Lawrenceville Hwy

Suite # 201-210

Lilburn, Ga. 30047

**FAX: 1-888-849-7371**

**www.lovencarehealthcare.com**

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with Disabilities.

AGES: All ages depending on the services needed

SERVICES OFFERED: Community Living Supports, Community Access (Group/Individual for individuals that have transitioned out of high school)

Specialized Medical Supplies, Specialized Medical Equipment, Supported Employment, Respite Care (In-Home)GAPP Program, Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP)

FEE: Medicaid Waiver, Private Pay

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**Pathways Career Services**

770-756-9582

9571 South Main Street

Jonesboro, GA 30236

**FAX) 404-767-0281**

POPULATION SERVED: Adults with developmental disabilities

AGES: 18 years through adulthood

SERVICES OFFERED: Supported Employment/Job Coaching, Community Access Services and Prevocational Services, Vocational Evaluations, Work Adjustment, Work Evaluation, Career Orientation and Job sampling

FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay, Ticket to Work Program
The Smart Place
770-469-4418
Adult and Children Services
(FAX) 770-469-4438
1916 Glenfare Rd
Decatur, GA 30035
www.thesmartplace.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities
AGES: Day Program: 18 years through adulthood; Summer and extended program: 12 and up
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Access Services and Prevocational Services are designed to provide choices & opportunities for success in a positive atmosphere by offering life skills instruction, behavior management, Individual Service Plan support, & community integration. Transportation provided. Training for direct care staff & family members is available. Full summer programs for ages 12 to 21. An extended children’s program (3 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.)
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia
770-676-2000
3300 NE Expressway Bldg. 9
Atlanta, GA 30341
1-888-827-9455
(FAX) 770-455-8040
www.ucpga.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with all disabilities, not just those with cerebral palsy
AGES: 17 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides a full array of services and supports, which benefit people with developmental disabilities and their families. Programs and services include after school care, Community Access Services, Prevocational Services, and Community Living Support Services. Referrals through Region Three DBHDD
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay
What is Supported Employment?

Supported employment is a state and federally funded program designed to enable individuals with disabilities to work. They are integrated with non-disabled workers in the workplace and earn at least minimum wage. The individual works in a job best suited to his/her strengths and begins with intensive job coaching which decreases as the job tasks are mastered. A Job Coach provides ongoing support a minimum of twice a month for as long as the person has the job.

Individual Placements
Traditional Supported Employment provides for one individual to be placed in a job in a community business or industry. A Job Coach or Employment Training Specialist provides intensive training in job skills and work-related behaviors. When employer’s standards are met, onsite support is faded, but must continue a minimum of twice a month. Communication with the employee and the employer is ongoing.

Enclave
An enclave consists of a small group of individuals with disabilities working within a local business. These individuals require more support, which is provided by a Job Coach who works for either the supported employment organization or the host company. The coach remains on site with individuals throughout their employment.
Another Chance Customized Service, Inc.  
678-518-1823
2412 Park Central Blvd  
http://www.anotherchancecsi.org
Decatur, GA  30035
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Ticket to Work Program, Supported Employment, Work Adjustment, Job Readiness, Vocational Evaluation, Competitive Employment, Job Coaching, Basic Computer Training, Personal Supports, Personal Social Adjustment Training, Medical Supplies, Home Health, Transportation
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, Ticket to Work Program, private pay

Briggs and Associates  
770-993-4559
2300 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite 103 #366  
http://www.briggsassociates.org
Roswell, GA  30076  
(FAX) 770-552-7051
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with an intellectual, physical, and/or emotional disability
AGES: Adults
SERVICES OFFERED: Supported employment program matches individuals to jobs with ongoing support
FEE: Medicaid Waiver. May initially be funded by the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. Those with qualifying mental health impairment may be funded by Briggs and Associates but will need to be determined eligible upon completion of application process.
Bobby Dodd Institute  
678-365-0071  
2120 Marietta Blvd NW  
Atlanta, GA  30318-2122  
www.bobbydodd.org  
(Formerly) AADD—All About Developmental Disabilities  
404-881-9777  
125 Clairemont Ave, Suite 300  
Decatur, GA  30030  
http://aadd.org  

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with disabilities  
AGES: 16 years through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: A vocational rehabilitation program including vocational and work evaluations, training, job placement, community-based work assessments, and supported employment with extended follow-up services. Training programs offered include office essentials, tech shop, food services, janitorial training, and building trades.  
FEE: May initially be funded by Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

DeKalb Community Service Board (DCSB)  
770-270-2710  
Supported Employment Services  
www.dekcsb.org  
(DeKalb Enterprises)  
2277 South Stone Mountain-Lithonia Road  
Lithonia, GA  30058  

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities and intellectual disabilities who are DeKalb County residents. Referrals through Region Three DBHDD Board  
AGES: 22 years through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Sheltered employment contract work with transition to community-based employment and supported employment. Program hours are Monday through Friday, 6 hours/day.  
FEE: Medicaid Waiver

Foundation of Exceptional Achievers  
770-986-4881  
2305 West Park Place Blvd.  
Stone Mountain, GA  30087  
http://www.feawork.com  

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy, schizophrenia, mental illness, mental health, dual diagnosis, and physical disabilities  
AGES: 18 - 60
SERVICES OFFERED: Prevocational Services, Community Access Services and Transportation
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay with Sliding Scale

The Frazer Center 404-377-3836
1815 Ponce de Leon Avenue (FAX) 404-373-0058 Atlanta, GA 30307
www.thefrazercenter.org
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with all types of disabilities.
AGES: 22 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Supported Employment (Group and Individual), Vocational Rehabilitation Work Evaluation (facility and Pre-school), Individual Service Plan (ISP), Community Access Services (Group and Individual), and Prevocational Services
Fee: Medicaid Waiver, private pay. Supported Employment may initially be funded by Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency 770-414-2602
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with intellectual, physical, mental and/or emotional disabilities
AGES: 16 years through adulthood. Parental consent required if under age 18
SERVICES OFFERED: Range of Services offered are based on the eligibility and vocational goal of the client. Services offered are individualized to client’s needs preferences, interests, and choice. Service can include Community Work Adjustment Training, Personal Social Adjustment Training, Job Placement, and Supported Employment.
FEE: Fees for services provided by Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency are determined by individual financial needs assessment. Some services are exempt from cost-sharing to include Job Placement, Supported Employment (Time Limited), Personal Social Adjustment and Community Work Adjustment Training, Job Readiness Training and Career Exploration.

Jewish Family & Career Services 770-677-9450
Tools for Independence WORKS 770-677-9300
4549 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road http://.yourtoolsforliving.org
Atlanta, GA 30330
POPULATION SERVED: Adults with developmental disabilities
AGES: 18 years through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Day program that includes community activities, volunteerism, and structured curriculum; prevocational program that includes volunteer and work experience in community-based environments, vocational evaluation, supported employment, and disability awareness consultation  
FEE: Medicaid Waiver. May initially be funded by the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. Charges a fee for extended support

**KES, Inc.**
6615 Tribble Street  
Lithonia, GA 30058  
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities  
AGES: 14 years through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Residential Alternative Services, Community Living Support Services, Community Access Services, Prevocational Services, natural supports, summer camp, and Supported Employment Services  
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, private pay

**People Making Progress**
2345 Fourth Street, Suite 100  
Tucker, GA 30084  
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with a primary diagnosis of developmental disabilities (may also have additional disability).  
AGES: 18 years through adulthood  
SERVICES OFFERED: Community Access Services, Supported Employment and Independent Living  
FEE: Medicaid Waiver and Grant Funded

**Nobis Works**
1480 Bells Ferry Road  
Marietta, GA 30066-6014  
POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with intellectual, physical, mental and/or emotional disabilities  
AGES: 16 years through adulthood  
FEE: May initially be funded by the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. Medicaid Waiver, private pay, VA contracts
WOW In-Sync, Inc. 770-939-1100
2137 Flintstone Drive, Suite G (FAX) 770-939-1714
Tucker, GA 30084 http://www.wowinsync.org

POPULATION SERVED: Individuals with developmental disabilities, specifically intellectual disabilities. Programs of WOW In-Sync include Simply Biz, Ultimate Access, and Mister Migs.
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Prevocational Services, Supported Employment, and Community Access Services
FEE: Medicaid Waiver, Grant-In-Aid, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation, and private pay

OTHER VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Work Source DeKalb 404-687-3400
774 Jordan Land, Building4 (FAX) 404-687-3443
Decatur, GA 30033 www.dekalbworksource.org

POPULATION SERVED: All job-seekers, regardless of county of residence
AGES: 18 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Provides a unified education, training, and employment program for job-seekers. Core services include job search assistance, job clubs and adult education & literacy programs. Training services include occupational skills training, on-the-job training, customized training, subsidized work experience, skills upgrading and retraining, entrepreneurial training and follow-up services for 12 months. Basic assessments (skill levels, interests, aptitudes, abilities, and supportive services), individual employment plans, individual counseling and in-depth career planning and case management and follow-up services for 12 months are also available. There is a youth program for ages 14-24 that provides apprenticeships, programs to assist with acquiring GED’s, summer employment, and assists with certifications and degrees. FEE: No cost for services—it is a Federal program
Goodwill Industries of North Georgia  404-728-8600
1295 Columbia Drive  www.goodwillng.org Decatur, GA
30032
2201 Lawrenceville Hwy  404-554-9600
decatur, GA  30033 careerconnector.org

POPULATION SERVED: Anyone with barriers to employment
AGES: 16 years through adulthood
SERVICES OFFERED: Assessment and work readiness skills training program,
work adjustment program, supported employment and other supports offered
FEE: None when referred by the Georgia Department of Labor, Vocational
Rehabilitation Program or other referring agencies

POST-SECONDARY INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA
(College Options for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities)

The purpose of providing transition services for students with intellectual and
developmental disabilities (IDD) on a college campus creates opportunities for
academic, vocational, and social skills instruction in a community setting with
college-age peers. Postsecondary education programs are a promising approach to
providing transition services in an age-appropriate and inclusive setting.

Columbus State University  706-568-5394
The GOALS Program at CSU
4225 University Ave
Teacher Education Department Columbus,
GA 31907
https://te.columbusstate.edu/goals.php
E-mail: goalsinfo@columbusstate.edu
Contact person: Dr. Greg Blalock
Type of school:
4-year college or university
Program Description:
The GOALS Program at Columbus State University is a two-year certificate program that provides a college experience for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Typical applicants are those who received special education services for a developmental disability (i.e., intellectual disability) through most of their K-12 schooling and have graduated high school with an alternative diploma (i.e., special education diploma, certificate of attendance, etc.). Using a person-centered planning process, GOALS provides students with developmental disabilities the opportunity to set and work toward their personal post-secondary goals as a foundation for active, lifelong career and community participation. The GOALS Program at CSU represents an inclusive, university-based program built upon the four principles of personal advocacy, career development, health education, and civic engagement. Students complete 36 credit hours of inclusive and program-specific courses, along with work-related internships that are designed to support the academic and personal leadership development of students.

Requirements: minimum of age 18 and a high school diploma or exited high school

Eligible to earn a degree or certificate: Currently it is a two-year program that is pending approval for a degree or certificate.

East Georgia State College
CHOICE Program
131 College Circle Swainsboro,
GA 30401
http://www.ega.edu/offices/student_affairs/choice
E-mail: trdavis@ega.edu
Contact person: Theresa R. Davis, Ed.S.--CHOICE Program Director

Type of school: 4-year college

Program Description:
East Georgia State College is a member of the University System of Georgia, gaining State College status in 2012, and offers a two-year college inclusion certificate program. The East Georgia State College inclusion program is designed for students with disabilities who desire to pursue a complete college immersion experience. The CHOICE program provides instruction in the following areas: Career Development and Employment, Academic Enrichment, Campus and Community Engagement, Self-Determination, and independent Living. The CHOICE Program staff creates a unique and customized plan for achievement using a person-centered planning approach. Student participants audit traditional courses, complete specialized CHOICE courses, and participate in job
shadowing/internship experiences on and off campus to support career exploration and development of employment skills. The CHOICE Program for inclusive learning at East Georgia State College (EGSC) has been designated by the U. S. Department of Education as a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP). The DOE recognizes such programs that meet specific criteria and provide postsecondary learning opportunities for students with disabilities. One benefit of the CTP designation is that students are eligible to apply for financial aid.

CTP was defined by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. CTPs at career schools and colleges serve students with intellectual disabilities who receive instruction in academics, career preparation, and independent living with goal of gainful employment. CTPs must advise students academically and provide welldefined programs of study. Students must spend at least half of their time in the program in activities with nondisabled students in inclusive courses and workbased training.

Requirements: minimum of age 18 and a high school diploma or exited high school

Eligible to earn a degree or certificate: Yes, students may earn a 2 year certificate

Georgia Institute of Technology
404-385-8157
EXCEL Program at Georgia Tech
Inclusive Postsecondary Academy at Georgia Tech 800 West Peachtree Street, N.W. Atlanta, GA 30308-1149
https://www.scheller.gatech.edu/centers-initiatives/ile/excel/index.html
E-mail: ipa@gatech.edu
Contact person: Ken Surdin
E-mail: ken.surdin@ipa.gatech.edu
Type of school: 4-year college or university
Program Description: The Inclusive Postsecondary Academy at Georgia Tech (IPA) is a four-year, inclusive non-degree program for students with mild intellectual and developmental disabilities leading to a Certificate of Social Growth, Academic Enrichment, and Vocational Exploration. The IPA at Georgia Tech provides students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to engage in the full college experience, including building a social network, participation in regular college classes, living independently, working in professional internships, and enjoying an
active social life with friends, and mentors. The purpose of the program is to provide the opportunity for all students to realize their intellectual and personal potential, with appropriate support for success.

Requirements: minimum of age 18 and a high school diploma or exited high school

Eligible to earn a degree or certificate: Yes, students may earn a 2 year certificate

Georgia State University
IDEAL Program at Georgia State University
Center for Healthy Development
School of Public Health
Georgia State University
Center for Leadership in Disability
P.O. Box 3961
Atlanta, GA 30302-3961
http://cps.education.gsu.edu/research/ideal/
Email: IDEAL@gsu.edu

Type of school: 4-year college or university

Program Description: The Inclusive Digital Expression and Literacy (IDEAL) Program offers a two-year course of study for students with mild intellectual disabilities. The IDEAL Program includes college classes, extracurricular activities and job-focused training. The mission of IDEAL is to prepare students with intellectual disabilities with educational opportunities and job-focused training. Our goal is to provide resources and support that lead to meaningful employment, greater independence and a higher quality of life for young people with intellectual disabilities. The IDEAL Program will leverage GSU’s resources in media and the arts, as well as our location in a global hub for journalism, music, art and design. The Program will be novel in its
focus on digital/media literacy, technology use and communication skills. **Requirements:** minimum of age 18 and a high school diploma or exited high school

**Eligible to earn a degree or certificate:** Yes, students may earn a 2 year certificate

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**Kennesaw State University**

Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth
520 Parliament Garden Way
Kennesaw, GA 30144-5591

http://wellstarcollege.kennesaw.edu/academy/index.php

**E-mail:** academyadmissions@kennesaw.edu
Contact person: Katherine Rigsby
E-mail: krigsby1@kennesaw.edu
Phone: 470-578-2283

**Type of school:**
4-year college or university

**Program Description:**

Kennesaw offers 2 certificate programs, each two years in length, that are designed to provide an inclusive post-secondary opportunity to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students can receive one certificate from the Academic, Social, Career, Enrichment (ASCE) program and one advanced certificate from the Leadership and Career Development (LCD) program. The Academy is a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) but our students are not eligible for any sorts of financial aid or Pell grants. Students are able to pay through private pay or scholarships.

**Requirements:** minimum of age 17 and a high school diploma or exited high school or hold a completion credential from an inclusive postsecondary program

**Eligible to earn a degree or certificate:** Yes, students may earn a 2 year certificate
University of Georgia 706-542-9401
Destination Dawgs: Inclusive Post-Secondary Education at UGA
850 College Station Rd
Institute on Human Development and Disability
Athens, GA 30606
http://www.fcs.uga.edu/ihdd/destination-dawgs
E-mail: DestinationDawgs@uga.edu
Contact person: Carol Britton Laws
Type of school: 4-year college or university
Program Description: Destination Dawgs is the University of Georgia’s Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Program which will launch in January 2017! This nondegree Certificate program will support students with intellectual disabilities who are transitioning to adulthood an opportunity to prepare for a career and independent living over the course of 5 spring/fall semesters. Students will audit UGA courses, gain valuable job skills, and build a social network based on individualized plans supported by peer mentors. Applications are due in the middle of May each year. Select students will be invited to participate in a Summer Leadership Program from as a pre-requisite to program admittance. Students must be over 18 years old, have a documented disability, and have a desire to gain skills for self-determination, independent living, and career development at the University of Georgia. Students who are under partial or limited guardianship will be considered.
Requirements: minimum of age 18 and a high school diploma or exited high school
Eligible to earn a degree or certificate: Currently it is a three year program that is pending approval for a degree or certificate.
Contact Person: Regina Watts, Special Needs/Disability Services Coordinator, rwatts@albanytech.edu
Virginia Chatmon: vchatmon@albanytech.edu.

Type of school: 2 year technical college

Program Description: The Leveraging Education for Advancement Program (LEAP) at Albany Technical College (ATC) is for highly motivated students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Student programming is based on the strengths and needs of the individual student identified through the development of a Person-Centered Plan. LEAP students can earn a Business Office Assistant certificate. All courses are taught by ATC faculty who are dedicated to teaching and preparing all students. Courses are offered on the Albany Tech campus where LEAP students have the opportunity to take courses alongside other college students. Graduates earning the Business Office Assistant certificate are prepared to perform a variety of duties in any office clerical occupation that requires knowledge of office systems and procedures. Along with taking credit classes, students have the opportunity to participate in career development workshops, social community integration, job shadowing, and internships. In addition to gaining new skills and training, each student is matched with a trained mentor to help build the college campus experience and meet academic requirements. LEAP students can enjoy the full college experience by participating in college activities, clubs, and organizations that are available to all ATC students. Students are eligible for financial aid: Georgia Hope Grant and scholarships; however, grants and scholarships will not cover the entire cost. We are in the
The process of applying to become a Comprehensive Transition Program which will make our students eligible for Pell Grants.

**Requirements:** Applicants considering applying to the LEAP program should be a minimum of 18 years old, have received special education services on the secondary level, graduated with a special education diploma, or a certificate of alternative diploma. Individuals should possess basic mathematics skills, the ability to use a calculator, and a minimum of a third grade reading level. **Eligible to earn a degree or certificate:** The LEAP program is a two year program that offers a credentialed certificate. Students who complete the LEAP program earn a Business Office Assistant certificate.

**HELPFUL WEBSITES**

- [www.aadd.org](http://www.aadd.org) - All About Developmental Disabilities
- [www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov) - U.S. Architectural & Transportation Compliance Board
- [www.bpaoga.com](http://www.bpaoga.com) - Benefits Navigator Project
- [www.dekcsb.org](http://www.dekcsb.org) - DeKalb Community Service Board
- [www.disabilitylink.org](http://www.disabilitylink.org) - Disability Link
- [www.disabilityresourcegroup.org](http://www.disabilityresourcegroup.org) - Disability Resource Group
- [www.gcdd.org](http://www.gcdd.org) - Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
- [www.georgiacommunitytrust.com](http://www.georgiacommunitytrust.com) - The Georgia Community Trust
- [www.glrs.org](http://www.glrs.org) - Georgia Learning Resources System
- [www.gaipsec.weebly.com](http://www.gaipsec.weebly.com) - Georgia Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Consortium
- [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org) - Georgia Transition Manual
- [www.lawyers.com](http://www.lawyers.com) - For overview of guardianships: Type in guardianship and conservatorship
click “search” scroll down to “Articles”
For overview of Special Needs Trust:
Type in Special Needs Trust
   click “search” Scroll down to “Articles”

www.loc.gov Library of Congress

www.dbhdd.georgia.gov Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities:

www.itsmarta.com click on left side at “service”
click on “Developmental Disabilities” MARTA Services

www.nichcy.org National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities

www.pacer.org Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights

www.p2pga.org Parent to Parent of Georgia


www.sss.gov Selective Service System
www.specialneedsplanning.com Special Needs Planning

www.specialolympicsga.org Special Olympics Georgia

www.silcga.org Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia

www.unlockthewaitinglists.com Unlock the Waiting Lists!

www.vitalcheck.com Site to order a birth certificate

www.vote-smart.org Site to locate your legislator.
Type in your zip code in the column on the left.

www.gvra.ga.gov

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

To contact a state legislator via e-mail:
Enter that legislator’s first initial, then last name
@legis.state.GA.US
Example: ncarroll@legis.state.GA.US

To access future versions of the Transition Manual, follow the directions on the DeKalb County School’s website.

www.dekalbschoolsga.org

On the main page type in the search box:
Transition Manual

National Transition Resources Websites:

www.fulllifeahead.org

www.gottransition.org

www.jobaccomodationanetwork.org

www.lifeafterIEPs.org

www.ncwd-youth.info

www.ncset.org

www.nichy.org

www.pacer.org
www.thinkcollege.net

www.transitioncoalition.org

www.transitionlink.org

DeKalb County Parent Mentors for Special Education: 678-676-2105 or 678-676-2106

PHONE RECORD

Date: ___________________ Agency Called: ______________________________

Phone Number: __________ Person spoken to: __________________________

Question:

Answer:

Comments:

Date: ___________________ Agency Called: ______________________________

Phone Number: __________ Person spoken to: __________________________

Question:
Answer:

Comments:

PHONE RECORD
Date: ________________ Agency Called: ________________________
Phone Number: ________ Person spoken to: ______________________

Question:

Answer:

Comments:

Date: ________________ Agency Called: ________________________
Phone Number: ________ Person spoken to: ______________________
Question:

Answer:

Comments: