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Founder & President

Partners in Policymaking
Graduate

Leadership Effingham
Graduate

MANDT Certified
Instructor

Certified Aging in Place
Specialist

Best kept secrets...

Resources

Family Supports

Programs

Waivers

*It's not the journey
I ever thought I
would be on,*

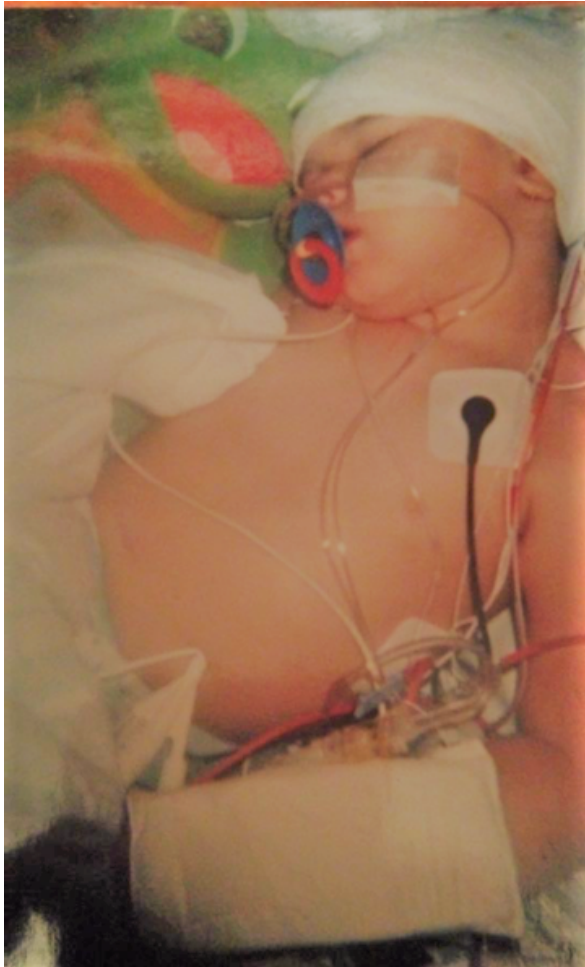
*But I wouldn't
trade it for the
world!*



*Advocacy -
It's a Journey*



Where the journey began



The Journey Continues



**THE
GREATEST**



RESOURCE

is

Other PARENTS / CAREGIVERS

**Where to find
them:**

**School
Functions**

Therapies

Social Media

**Support
Groups**

Support Groups

If you can
not find a
local group
don't be
afraid to start
one yourself.





Don't limit yourself to the diagnosis!



Community

City

County

Region

State

National

RESOURCE

YMC

A City Hall

Health Dept.

**DFACS
OFFICE**

Technical Schools
Colleges / Universities

ES

City / County Recreational Dept.

**Public
Library**

SSA

You Have To
Ask !

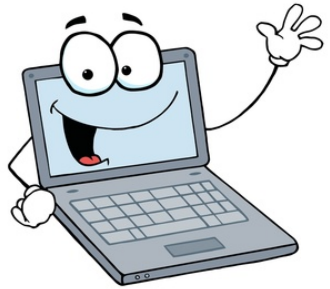
Newspaper / Magazines

DBHDD REGIONAL OFFICE

**SCHOOL SYSTEM's
Parent Mentor or
Parent Liaison**

***Physicians
/
Therapists***
Advocacy
Office

How did we
ever get by
without...





Special Resource

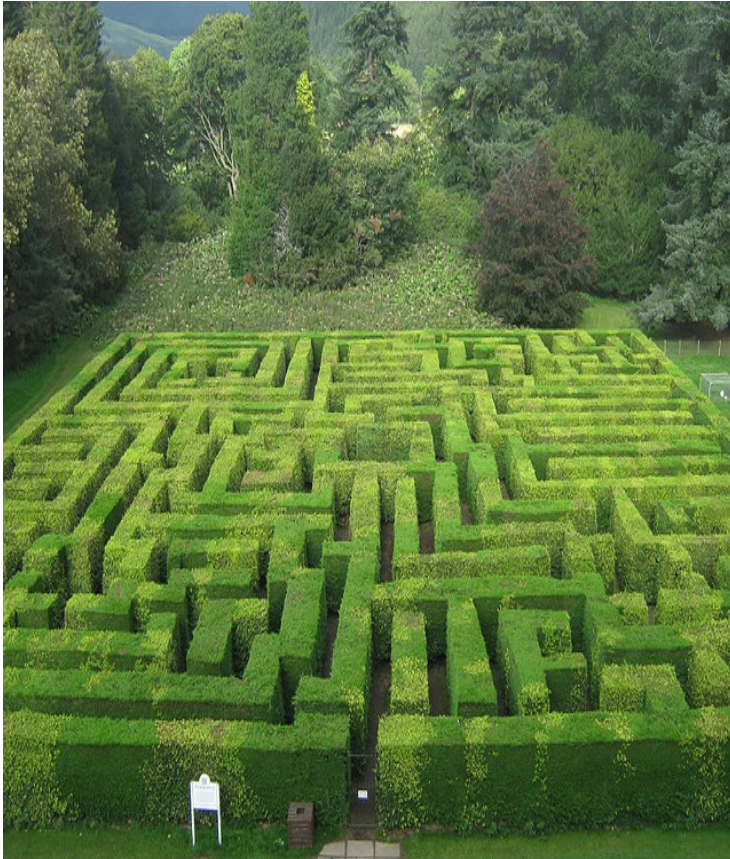


Special Needs Parents of



Georgia

- Closed Group
- Administration will vet you before you are approved.
- Only members of the group can see your post or comments. Does not show up on your newsfeed.



Navigating The Maze:

A Guide to Funding / Grant Opportunities & Advocacy Resources

Created and updated by:

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Register at

<http://eepurl.com/1cJC1>

- Click on the link.
- It will ask you for your email address.
- Once your email address is confirmed, it will bring you to the page to download the document.



IMPORTANT RESOURCES TO KEEP ON HAND...

**Georgia Crisis Access Line (GCAL) served by Benchmark: 24/7 Access Line:
800-715-4225**

Georgia Advocacy Office: 800-537-2329 Website: www.thegao.org

Georgia Legal Aid: <http://www.legalaid-ga.org>



Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

*Through policy initiatives, public awareness, advocacy programs and community building the GCDD promotes and creates opportunities to enable persons with disabilities to live, work, play and worship as an integral part of society.

GCDD is a federally funded , independent state agency. It does not provide direct services. They often act as a convener for public and private organizations, individuals, family members and supporters to develop coordinated public policy and bring about social change.

Website:

www.gcdd.org

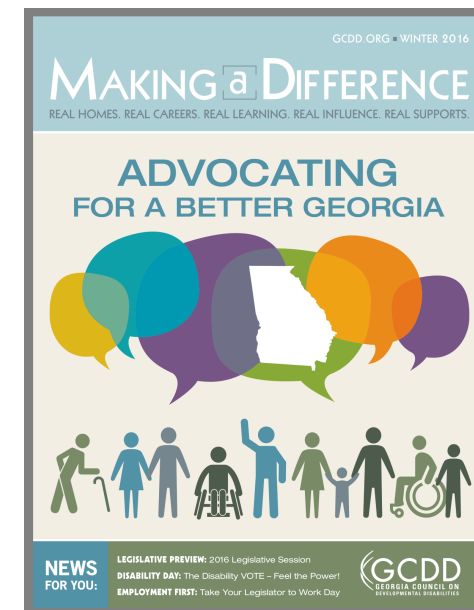
Address: 2 Peachtree St.
NW Suite 26-246
Atlanta, Ga. 30303

Phone: 404-657-2126



* georgia.gov

Subscribe
to their
free
magazine



P
2
P

of GEORGIA

Parent 2 Parent of Georgia

***ABOUT**: Provides support, information and training to parents of children with disabilities and special health care needs.

***MISSION**: To support Georgia families and individuals from birth to 26 impacted by disabilities or special health care needs.

***PRODUCTS**: Parent matching, online searchable database of resources, training, support groups, conferences, information and literature, listservs, website and parent leadership development.

3070 Presidential
Parkway, Suite 130
Atlanta, Ga. 30340

Phone:
(800)229-2038



Website:

www.p2pga.org

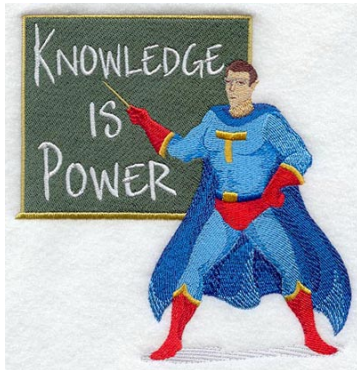
Email:

[info@p2pga.org/](mailto:info@p2pga.org)

* Parent to Parent of Georgia Facebook Page

ADVOCACY

*What does
this
mean?*



And **WHY** is it so **IMPORTANT**????



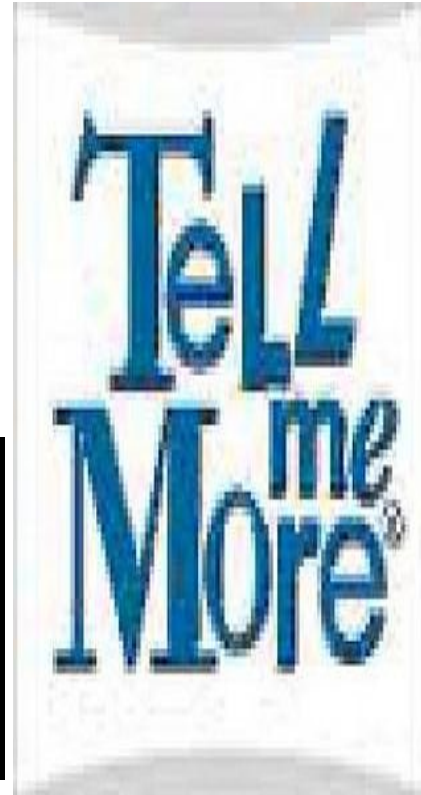
State Funded Family Supports

THE BEST KEPT SECRET!



Shhh...it's secret

Psst... we're working on it.



***Well not
anymore.***

No, no...
This isn't gossip.
It's the truth.



So what is State Funded Family Supports ?

- It is a non-entitlement program which brokers disability specific goods/services based on each individual and families unique needs.
- Services are based on the value that families belong together and individuals are best served in the community setting.
- Supports meet every day needs that are often critical in avoiding family crises.
- The goal of the program is to assist in maintaining a cohesive family unit and to assist the individual to live at home in the community.

Eligibility:

- Individuals age 3 and up.
- Living in Georgia within their community.
- Diagnosed with a qualifying disability identified by DBHDD I & E assessment, psychological evaluation, school IEP, Social Security Disability Determination and/or medical documentation.
- Not currently receiving services through a NOW/Comp waiver. (Individual can have CCSP, SOURCE, ICWP, GAPP or the KB waiver).

Services:

Family Supports broker goods and services that are INDIVIDUALIZED to meet YOUR family's needs.
Family Support is payor of last resort.

Authorized Goods and Services:

- Specialized Equipment
- Therapeutic Services
- Counseling
- Parent / Family Training
- Specialized Nutrition
- Supplies
- Incontinence Supplies
- Behavioral Consultation and Support
- Family Support Transportation
- Community Access Transportation
- Dental Services
- Medical Care
- Specialized Clothing
- Specialized Diagnostic Services
- Recreational /Social Community Integration Activities
- Homemaker Services
- Child Day Care / After-School Services
- Exceptional Disability Related Living Cost

- Family Support Respite Care
- Family Support Community Living Supports
- Family Support Community Access
- Family Support Supported Employment

Environmental Modifications: Lifetime cap \$7,000

Vehicle Modifications: Lifetime cap \$5,000

Families may only use (1) Family Support Provider.

You can be on the DBHDD Planning List and still be eligible for Family Supports.



Pooler Karate
(Carson – The Autism
Whisperer)



Taylor
Swift
Concert



Community Access
Transportation



Sensory
Chair



Weighted
Blanket



Trampoline
Park



Respite

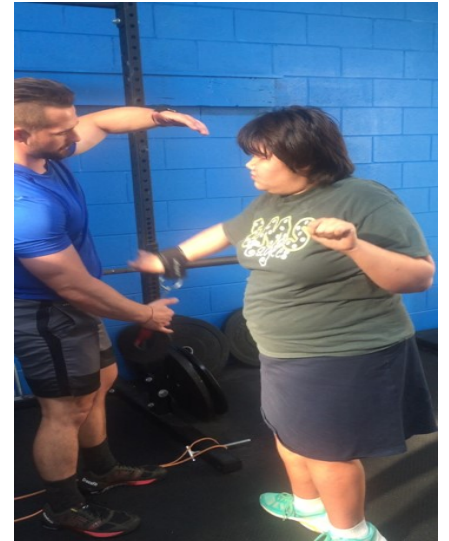


Rides for Smiles



Driver's
Education

Keagan Kiely –
Only Personal Trainer
certified to work with
individuals with disabilities.



Incontinence



Behavior Support
Plan



Homemaker
Services



EMPLOYMENT

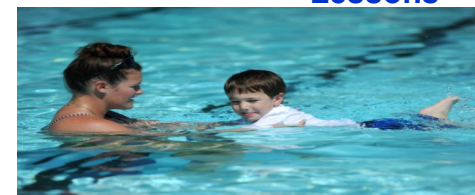


INDIVIDUAL
FAMILY
SIBLING
COUNSELING



Weighted Vest

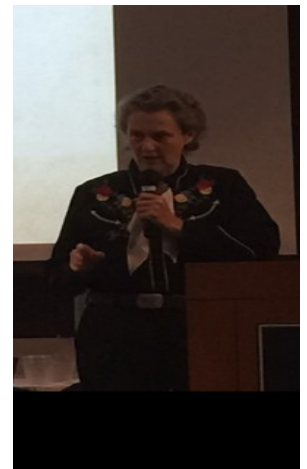
Swimming
Lessons



Dental Services
(not covered by insurance)



Family memberships to
water parks



Matthew Reardon
Autism Conference
w/ Temple Grandin



Family Support
Transportation
Reimbursement

Why
we do
what
we
do...



I need to see

Early

Periodic

Screening

Diagnostic

Treatment

The Holy Grail of Medicaid



What is EPSDT?

A Federal Act that is the **MOST** comprehensive child health program in either the public or private sector.

Who is eligible?

All Medicaid eligible children 0-21 years of age.

What does it mean?

A child with ANY form of Medicaid (including CMO's and KB waiver) are guaranteed by law screenings, all medically necessary diagnostic and treatment services for physical, mental illnesses or conditions whether or not the services are regularly covered under the state Medicaid plan.

Prescribed services must be medically necessary to “correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition identified by screening”.

Ameliorate means to “improve or maintain the recipient’s health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems”.

Treatment need not ameliorate the child’s condition as a whole, but need only be medically necessary to ameliorate one of the child’s diagnosis or medical conditions.

There is no waiting list for EPSDT.

There is no monetary cap on the total cost of EPSDT services.

There is no limit of the number of EPSDT visits or hours to a physician, therapist, dentist or other licensed clinician.

There is no set list that specifies what EPSDT services / equipment that may be covered.

PROGRAMS

HIPP (Health Insurance Premium Payment) / CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program):

Must have at least one child Medicaid eligible in the household or have a one member of the household that is a Medicaid member. That individual would need to be on your health coverage plan (this includes COBRA plans) from your employer. Premium cost must be cost effective for participation. This means that the cost to the Georgia Medicaid Program are expected to be less than the Medicaid total cost of care. The goal of the HIPP program is to help Medicaid members maintain their group sponsored or private insurance which often cover services not paid for by Medicaid. Your health insurance company will pay for medical services first and Medicaid will pay the remainder at a reduced amount.

800-869-1150 or 678-564-1162 ext #131 Website: <http://dch.georgia.gov> click on programs, then Medicaid, then Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP)

Employment:

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GAVR) operates 5 integrated & independent statutory programs that share a primary goal – to help people with disabilities to become fully productive members of society by achieving independence and meaningful employment. Services stops after 90 days of successful employment.

Website: <http://gvra.Georgia.gov>

Social Security Administration – Ticket to Work Program: Those who are receiving monthly cash benefit payments are entitled to participate. Participant can use VR or an Employment Network (EN), which is a private agency. Social Security conducts national Work Incentive Seminar Events (WISE) webinars online each month.

Website: <https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/>

Georgia's ABLE Act

What is it?

The ABLE Act amends the IRS code to allow for tax advantaged savings like the 529 higher education savings accounts allowing people with serious disabilities to save for a qualified disability expenses without violating the \$2,000 asset limits that apply to eligibility for Medicaid, SSI and other benefits programs.

Who is eligible?

People who have a serious disability and receive SSI or who meet similar criteria (certified by a physician) are eligible, if the disability had an onset prior to age 26.

What are “qualified disability expenses”?

Education, employment, training and supports, housing, transportation, health and wellness, personal support services, financial management and administrative services, legal fees, funeral and burial expenses.

How much can be saved?

\$235,000 maximum in an ABLE account in Georgia. However, when an account reaches \$100,000 a person's SSI check is temporarily suspended until the account goes below \$100,000. Medicaid eligibility is not so limited.

EDUCATION:

Many post-secondary institutions have programs and supports for those with disabilities. The high school transition coordinator can assist with identifying what would be the best fit for your child.

There are several scholarship opportunities for those with disabilities. Check out College Scholarships website for a list of grants and scholarships available.
<http://www.collegescholarships.org/> >student specific scholarships > disabled



WAIVERS

Home and Community Based Services

All applicants must be Medicaid eligible.

Ga. Pediatric Program
(GAPP)

Community Care Service
Program (CCSP)

SOURCE

Independent Care Waiver
Program (ICWP)

TEFRA/Katie Beckett

NOW/Comp

Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP)

- Serves children under age 21, who are medically fragile and in need of skilled nursing care.
- Members served by GAPP must meet the same level of care as necessary for admission to a hospital or skilled nursing facility and be eligible for Medicaid.
- The program provides services either in home or in a medical day care as an alternative to full-time skilled nursing facility care or institutional setting such as a hospital.
- This waiver does not provide behavior supports.
- For more information contact the Medicaid Aging and Special Populations office – 404-656-6862

Community Care Services Program (CCSP)

- Provides community-based social, health and support services to eligible consumers as an alternative to institutional placement in a nursing facility.
- Based on Medicaid income limits, some eligible individuals pay some of the cost of their services.
- Eligibility Criteria for services:
 - Functional impairment caused by physical limitations.
 - Approval by a physician of an intermediate level of care.
 - Client chooses community-based rather than institutional care.
- Contact the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for assessment: 866-552-4464

Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP)

- Helps a limited number of adult Medicaid members with severe physical disabilities live in their own homes or in the community instead of a hospital or nursing facility.
- Serves those with traumatic brain injuries (TBI).
- Serves individuals between the ages of 21 and 64.
- Provides supports but also supplies and equipment.
- Individuals must require the assistance of another individual for daily living activities.
- To apply contact the Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF) 888-669-7195

SOURCE

Service Options
Using Resources in
the Community and
Environment.

- Individuals must be old than 65 or have long term disability.
- Must require a nursing facility level of care.
- Slightly more restricted income and financial resources than regular Medicaid.

TEFRA/ Katie Beckett Program

- Provides Medicaid benefits to children under the age of 18 living at home who would not normally be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to parents income.
- Requires a level of care provided in a hospital, skilled-nursing facility or immediate-care facility but can be cared for at home.
- Has an estimated cost of care outside of the institution that will not exceed the estimated cost of treating him/her within the institution.
- Requires 5 therapies per week not including school therapies.
- Eligibility is determined by the Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF).
- All denials are reviewed by Medicaid Waiver Manager Brian Dowd who will gladly work with the family to advise how eligibility can be obtained, if possible.
- EPSDT does apply to participants.
- Primary private insurance coverage will first be applied then Medicaid will cover the difference or provide medically necessary services, supplies or treatments insurance does not cover.

New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP)

- Operated by Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).
- The NOW waiver provides supports to people with developmental disabilities who live in their own home or with family members and require services with cost less than \$25,000 per year.
- The COMP waiver provides supports to people who need a full range of intensive in-home or out of home services with costs over \$25,000 per year.
- Applicants must be Medicaid eligible.
- Designed for those with intellectual / developmental disabilities. Children and adults with developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or neurological impairments must have severe impairments in order to be eligible.
- Currently there are 8,708 on the waiting list (Planning List). Waiver slots are based on most in need. Those eligible should apply get their names on the Planning List.