



2012 POLICY AGENDA

The Georgia Birth to Five Coalition is a coalition of one hundred community organizations and individuals committed to promoting the healthy development, education and care of all of Georgia's young children. The Coalition supports the central role of parents in children's healthy development, promotes high quality environments and services, and engages business, government, and the non-profit, faith and civic sectors to take leadership on behalf of young children and their families. By advancing an integrated and comprehensive set of policies and investments, the Coalition aims to prepare all children for an engaged, educated and productive childhood and adulthood.

Healthy Births, Infants and Young Children

Value Statement: Advocate for quality health care services and prevention-focused programs for children ages 0-5 and pregnant women.

- Medicaid and PeachCare: Continue services to children that are currently provided
- Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH): Support programs for children ages 0-5.
 - Advocate for resources to promote breastfeeding initiatives.
- Health Babies Medicaid Waivers: Support streamlining the enrollment process
 - Improve outreach and communication especially in underserved communities
- Childhood obesity education campaigns: target to families and childcare providers
 - Support DPH to raise awareness and educate families about obesity in young children.
 - Support early childhood programs focused on teaching healthy eating behaviors, as well as programs focused on parental education.

Early Care and Education

Value Statement: Advocate for funding for quality child care and Pre-K:

- Preserve the Georgia Pre-K budget and number of slots for Subsidized Child Care
- Increase the reimbursement rate for child care subsidies
- Increase the number of days for Georgia Pre-K back to 180

Value Statement: Advocate for increased safety and quality in child care:

- Support legislation to clarify the maximum number of children that can be served in a family child care setting
- Support the Quality Rating Improvement System; work to promote provider participation and parent awareness
- Monitor any proposed changes to licensure exemptions

Value Statement: Participate in the establishment of an effective early learning system by:

- Supporting the State's Early Learning Challenge Grant vision
- Providing input to a LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF PRE-K
- Promoting linkages to ensure successful transitions from the early education system to the k-12 system

Home Visiting

Value Statement: Develop a Georgia home visiting system and a menu of evidence based programs to ensure mothers and children are healthy, children are free from child abuse and neglect, and children birth to age 5 are prepared for and successful in school and beyond.

- Support implementation and sustainability of GA's Maternal and Infant Early Care Home Visiting initiative
- Support the development of a statewide comprehensive system of care for at risk families.
- Support home visiting programs that promote school readiness.

For more information, go to www.georgiavoices.org/georgia-birth-to-five-coalition



ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

Africa's Children's Fund

***Annie E. Casey Foundation/Atlanta Civic Site**

Atlanta Cares

Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic

Big Bethel/ICM

Black Child Development Institute, Inc.

***Black Child Development Institute, Inc. - Atlanta**

CASA

Chattahoochee Technical College

Chevron

Child Development Association

Childcare Network

Childhelp

ChildKind

***Children's Healthcare of Atlanta**

Concerted Services Inc.

East Point Community Action Team

Easter Seals North Georgia

Emory Urban Health Program

Exceptional Educational Solutions

Family Nurturing Center of Georgia

Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy

***GA Family Connection Partnership**

G-CAPP

***GEEARS**

Georgia Afterschool Investment Council

Georgia Association on Young Children

Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

***Georgia Child Care Association**

Georgia Community Action

***Georgia Parents as Teachers Network**

***Members of Elected Leadership Team**

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

Georgia Public Health Association

Georgia Rural Urban Summit

Georgia Southern University

Georgians for a Healthy Future

GSU

***GSU-Dept. EPSE**

Head Start

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia

Interfaith Children's Movement

***Junior League of Atlanta**

Kids Quarters

***MARCH OF DIMES**

Metro Atlanta YMCA

Piedmont CASA

Planned Parenthood Southeast, Inc.

PLR Educational

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

Quality Care for Children

Refugee Family Services

***Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers**

Southeastern Tech Child Development Center

The Atlanta Regional Commission

Tri-County Health Systems

***United Way Metropolitan Atlanta**

USDHHS/ACF/Office of Child Care

***Voices for Georgia's Children**

Wee Wisdom Little School

Robert W. Woodruff Foundation