

HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

The Georgia Birth to Five Coalition is a statewide advocacy coalition composed of organizations and individuals. Its mission is to promote the healthy development, education and care of all Georgia's children to ensure that they are prepared for an engaged, educated and productive childhood and adulthood by advancing an integrated and comprehensive set of policies and investments.

The Coalition's work is organized through workgroups. A Home Visiting Work Group of providers and advocates has been convened to share best practices, engage in advocacy, and promote home visiting as an important component of Georgia's early childhood system.

The Georgia Home Visiting Work Group has worked to identify home visitation programs throughout Georgia. While the list that has been compiled does not include all of the publicly funded home visiting programs administered by Georgia agencies such as Public Health or those implemented through Title I schools, this is the most comprehensive listing of home visitation programs currently available in Georgia and the Work Group continues to update the list. It is also important to note that the number of programs fluctuates over time. The information included in this section and subsequent map represent information received as of June 15, 2010.

EARLY HEAD START

Early Head Start (EHS) is a federally funded child development program for low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women. Its mission is to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, to enhance the development of young children, and to promote healthy family functioning. Child development services that programs must provide directly or through referral include: early education services in a range of developmentally appropriate settings; home-visits, especially for families with newborns; parent education and parent-child activities; comprehensive health and mental health services, and high quality child care services, provided directly or in collaboration with community child care providers.

In Georgia, there are 30 Head Start grantees. Of these grantees, 19 have only Head Start Programs, two grantees only provide Early Head Start, and 11 have both Head Start and Early Head Start (Georgia Head Start Association Needs Assessment, December 2009). An additional seven Early Head Start programs were funded since January 2010 with an estimated 1,500 families served.

HEALTHY FAMILIES GEORGIA

Healthy Families America (HFA) is a national initiative of Prevent Child Abuse America. HFA is a voluntary home visiting program designed to help parents of newborns get their children off to a healthy start. The initiative promotes positive parenting and child health and development, thereby preventing child abuse, neglect and other poor childhood outcomes. Healthy Families America initiates services prenatally or at birth and uses a standardized assessment tool to identify families who are most in need of services. Services are offered to families for up to five years. In Georgia, there are 9 sites serving 12 counties and 1,123 families, as of April 2010.

NURTURING PARENT PROGRAM

The Nurturing Georgia's Families Project (NGF) works to prevent child abuse, neglect, and substance abuse via in-home visitation and group-based programming. The Project includes three strategies for prevention: community-based workshops, training, and program delivery. In Georgia, there are 13 Nurturing Parenting Programs, as of October 2009.

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an international early childhood parent education and family support program. PAT serves families throughout pregnancy until the child enters kindergarten. Goals are: increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices; provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; prevent child abuse and neglect; and increase children's school readiness and school success. The model includes four components: personal or home visits using the Born to Learn curriculum; family group meetings; periodic developmental, health, vision and hearing screenings; and connections to community services. In Georgia, there are 46 programs serving 44 counties and 1,712 families, as of April 2010.

PROJECT HEALTHY GRANDPARENTS

Project Healthy Grandparents is a community service research project of the College of Health and Human Sciences at Georgia State University. The mission is to improve the quality of life for families in which grandparents are raising grandchildren in parent-absent homes. The program provides social work and health services, support groups, legal assistance referrals, and improved access to community resources. In Georgia, there is one program serving two counties and 45 families, as of April 2010.

HEALTHY START

Healthy Start is a program of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal & Child Health Bureau. It was initiated in 1991 as a broad effort to address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes, with a target population to include women and infants through two years postpartum. The three core program goals for Healthy Start are to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in access to and utilization of health services, improve the local health care system, and increase consumer/community voice and participation in health care decisions. The five service components include: outreach, case management, health education, perinatal depression screening, and interconception care. In Georgia, there are five federally-funded Healthy Start programs.

SAFECARE

SafeCare is a parent-training curriculum for parents who are at-risk or have been reported for maltreatment. Through SafeCare, trained professionals work with at-risk families in their home environments to improve parents' skills in three domains: home safety, health, and parent-child interactions. SafeCare is generally provided in weekly home visits lasting from 1 to 2 hours. The SafeCare program typically lasts 18-20 weeks for each family. The training for SafeCare is provided by the National SafeCare Training and Research Center, Georgia State University. In Georgia, 22 provider agencies serving DFCS-referred families have been trained in SafeCare, as of June 2010.

GEORGIA CAMPAIGN FOR ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION, COMMUNITY-BASED DOULA PROGRAM

The Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (GCAPP) Community-Based Doula program, a national model, provides first time pregnant teens ages 10 – 19 with a trained birth assistant to provide social and emotional support during pregnancy, labor, and post delivery. The Doula program seeks to prevent incidences of complications during pregnancy and increase bonding between mother and child. In Georgia, there is one program serving two counties and 100 families, as of June 2010.