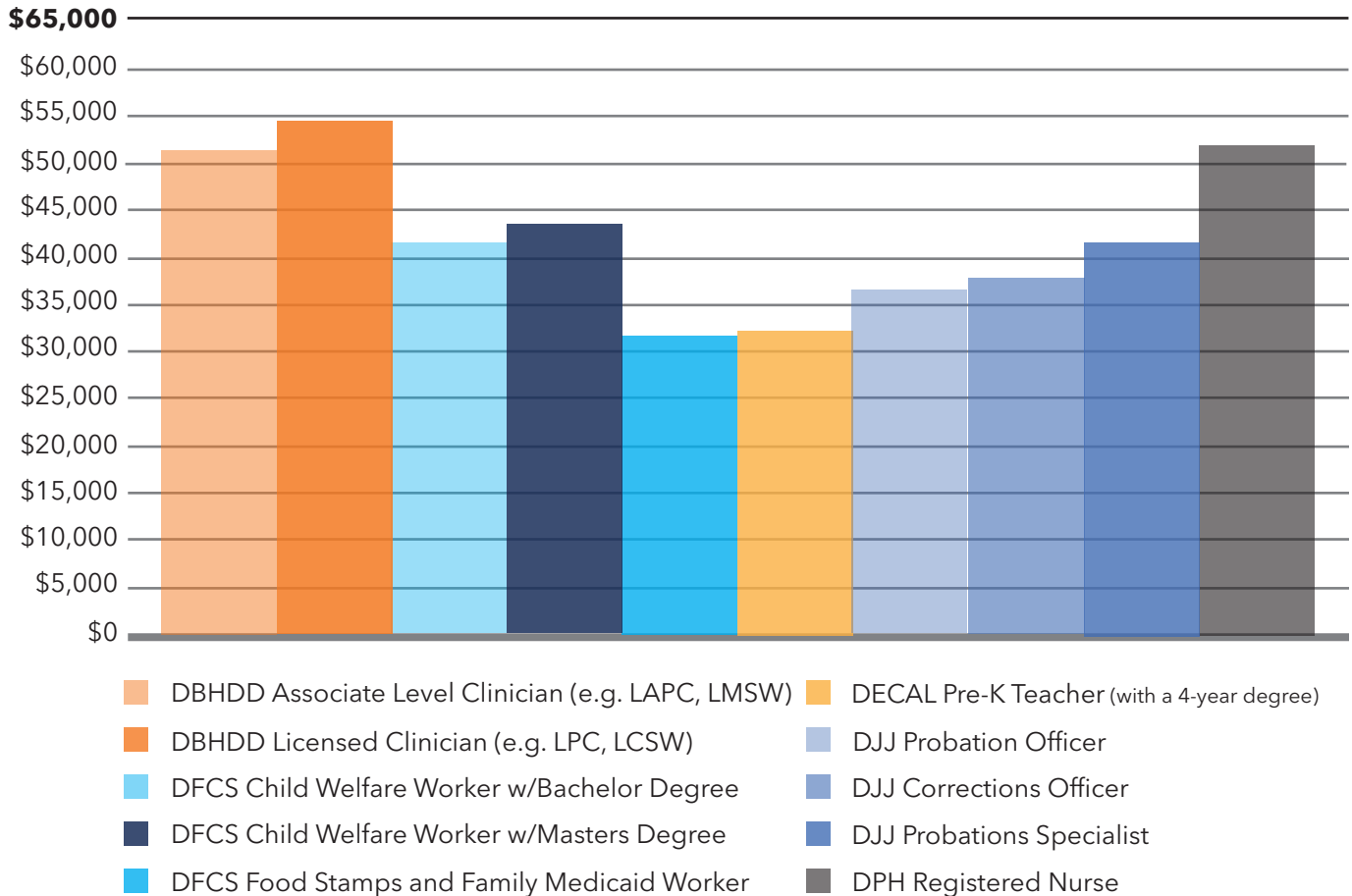




State Agency Salaries for Child-Serving Workers

Child-serving state agency workers help Georgia's children and families get support for their **most basic needs**.

Child-Serving Agency Entry-Level Salaries



Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Clinicians and social workers at Community Service Boards (CSBs), which are safety net mental health providers based in communities, provide direct services to youth in the community and sometimes in schools. These services include individual, group, and family therapy. The following salary information is specific to DBHDD (hospitals and community-based providers) and does not include the CSBs. However, many CSBs use the state salary structure, through their respective average starting salaries will likely vary.

Base-Level Salaries (as of 2022)¹

Associate Level Clinician (e.g. LAPC, LMSW)	\$51,230
Licensed Clinician (e.g. LPC, LCSW)	\$54,960

Note: These salary increases are a result of funding approved by the Georgia state legislature during the 2022 legislative session to adjust for cost-of-living and/or provide pay increases to state agency employees, teachers, and nurses.

Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

Child Welfare

Child welfare workers provide investigative and comprehensive case management for children experiencing abuse or neglect. They assess safety concerns, identify physical, educational, and behavioral needs of the child, parents, and foster parents, and ensure these needs are addressed.

	Base-Level Salaries (as of 2022) ⁱⁱ	
Social Services Specialist I, Entry Level	\$40,388	■ Bachelor Degree
	\$43,927	■ Masters Degree
Social Services Specialist II, Mid Level	\$43,927	
	\$47,101	
Social Services Specialist III, Advanced Level	\$47,101	
	\$52,101	
Social Services Specialist, Supervisor	\$52,101	
	\$56,811	

Office of Family Independence

Office of Family Independence workers process SNAP/Food Stamp and Family Medicaid cases. They determine applicant eligibility and process applications.

	Base-Level Salaries (as of 2022) ⁱⁱⁱ
Economic Support 1 (One Program)	\$32,000
Economic Support 2 (Two Programs)	\$34,000
Economic Support 3 (Three Programs)	\$39,000
Economic Support Specialist Supervisor	\$41,000

Department of Early Care and Learning

Georgia Pre-K teachers teach 4- and 5-year-old children, 5 days a week, 180 days per year. The school-day is 6.5 hours, and sometimes longer to provide before- and after-school care.

	Base-Level Salaries (as of 2022) ^{iv}
Pre-K Teacher, 4-year degree	\$32,315
Pre-K Teacher, 4-year degree & Certified	\$40,820
Pre-K Teacher, Master's degree	\$45,343

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

DJJ staff are responsible for youth under DJJ supervision, both in detention facilities and on probation in communities.

	Base-Level Salaries (as of 2022) ^v
Probation Officer I, Entry Level	\$37,130
Juvenile Corrections Officer I, Entry Level	\$37,730
Juvenile Probation Specialist, Entry Level	\$42,000

Department of Public Health (DPH)

DPH Registered Nurses provide nursing care, including for populations with special needs during natural disasters and emergencies.

	Midpoint Salary Range ⁱⁱ (as of 2022) ^{vi}
Registered Nurse, Level 1	\$51,812
Registered Nurse, Level 2	\$58,547
Registered Nurse, Level 3	\$66,168
Registered Nurse, Supervisor	\$74,758

ⁱ Salaries were effective April 1, 2022

ⁱⁱ Amounts shown reflect the midpoint salary ranges for the positions listed.

Sources for State Agency Salaries for Child Serving Workers

- 1 Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, interview by Maria Ramos, October 10, 2022.
- 2 Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family & Children Services, interview by Maria Ramos, August 2022.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, <http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/2023TeacherSchedule.pdf>, Retrieved October 13, 2022.
- 5 Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, interview by Maria Ramos, August 2022.
- 6 Georgia Department of Public Health, interview by Maria Ramos, August 2022.