

Medicaid in Georgia

Are you eligible and how does it work?

Who is Eligible for Medicaid in Georgia?

In general, you should apply for Medicaid if your income is low and you match one of these categories:

- You think you are pregnant
- You are the parent or caretaker of a child or teenager under the age of 19
- You are a child or teenager under the age of 19
- You are age 65 or older
- You are legally blind
- You have a disability
- You need nursing home care

Note: Your child may be eligible for Medicaid if he or she is a U.S. citizen or a legal immigrant — even if you are not. Eligibility for children is based on the child's status, not the parent's; however, the parent's income is counted toward the income limit.

How Do You Apply for Medicaid?



Apply online: (any type of Medicaid)

- www.gateway.ga.gov



In person:

- **Your County Division of Family and Children Services**
(any type of Medicaid)
To find your DFCS office, see dfcs.georgia.gov/locations
or call 404-657-3433
- **A Right from the Start Medicaid site**
(Medicaid for children, pregnant woman, parent/caretaker, or family planning for women ages 18-44) To find an RSM site, see www.dch.georgia.gov/rsm-contact-information
or call 877-427-3224

If you are aged (65 or older), blind or disabled:

Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid by contacting your local Social Security office. Call 800-772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov

If you are deaf or hard of hearing call the TTY number 800-325-0778

NOTE

If you apply for Medicaid for your children and learn they are not eligible because of income, ask about **PeachCare for Kids** or call **877-427-3224**. You can also apply online at gateway.ga.gov.

Families that earn too much money for Medicaid may be able to enroll their children in PeachCare for Kids. For example, a family of 4 can have an income of up to \$66,024 in 2020 to qualify.

What Happens After You Apply for Medicaid?

- You will find out if you or your child is eligible for Medicaid within 45 days after you apply. Note: If you are applying based on disability and your disability has to be determined, the state has 60 days to notify you.
- A letter will come in the mail telling you whether or not you are eligible. (If the notice says you are not eligible when you think you should be, you can ask for a fair hearing so that an impartial person can make a decision on your case.)
- If you or your child is eligible for Medicaid, you will receive a plastic Medicaid card in the mail.
 - One card will be mailed to each enrolled member in the family.
 - The card will have the enrollee’s name and member identification number on the front.
- Carry your Medicaid card with you at all times, in your purse or in your wallet. Treat it like your driver’s license, so you will have it when you need it. You need to show it to a doctor or pharmacist to get medical care or medicines.



Sample Georgia Medicaid Card

- Since your personal situation may change — for example, if you get a new job or your family size changes — Medicaid will review your situation each year to make sure you are still eligible.
 - If your situation changes you must call Medicaid Eligibility at 877-423-4746 or the Social Security Administration office as soon as you know about any changes.
- Depending on which type of Medicaid you have, you may be able to choose from among several health plans. You make the choice through Georgia Healthy Families. See https://www.georgia-families.com/GASelfService/en_US/home.htm, or call 1-888-423-6765.

CO-PAYS

Unless you are pregnant or under age 21, you may have to make a small co-pay when you receive medical care. You cannot be denied service because you are not able to pay the co-pay. But, your doctor may bill you for the co-pay amount.



If you don't hear anything within

45 days

call 877-423-4746



Your eligibility is reviewed each year after you are enrolled.

NOTE

When you apply for Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), let your caseworker know about any medical bills from the last three months. It's possible that Medicaid may help pay for some of them.

What Does Medicaid Pay For?

It's always a good idea to ask your doctor or pharmacist whether the specific service or item you need is covered by Medicaid.

Generally, Medicaid covers these services:

- Doctor and nurse office visits
- Lab tests and x-rays
- Prescription medicine
- Inpatient hospital services
(services you receive in the hospital when you spend the night)
- Outpatient hospital services
(services you receive at the hospital even though you don't spend the night)
- Nursing homes
- Emergency ambulance services
- Preventive dental care for children
- Certain emergency dental care for adults
- Non-emergency transportation to get to and from medical appointments
- Medical equipment and supplies prescribed by a doctor for use in your home
(such as wheelchairs, crutches, or walkers)
- Exams, immunizations (shots), and all necessary treatments for children
- Family planning services (such as exams, birth control, treatment, and counseling)
- Vision care for children
- Hearing services for children

Need help finding a provider in your area that accepts Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids™?

Call the Georgia Family Health Line at 1-800-300-9003.

Operated by the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia, the Georgia Family Health Line has the most complete list of available health care resources for every Georgia county. This list includes providers who accept Medicaid/PeachCare patients. It also includes providers who offer low cost/sliding scale fees for services.

Need assistance with Medicaid enrollment?

Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, or Clayton counties contact:

Atlanta Legal Aid:

(404) 524-5811 in Fulton County

(770) 528-2565 in Cobb County

(404) 377-0701 in DeKalb County

(678) 376-4545 in Gwinnett County

or (404) 669-0233 in Clayton and South Fulton Counties

For all other counties contact:

Georgia Legal Services Program

1-800-498-9469

HEALTH CHECK

Medicaid pays for most medical services that children or young adults under 21 need.

