

**IMPORTANT BACK-TO-SCHOOL REMINDER:
ENSURE YOUR KIDS' MEDICAID COVERAGE IS UP-TO-DATE**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the new school year gets started, be sure your student has a smooth transition back to the classroom by checking **your children's Medicaid coverage**. Since last spring, Georgia and other states have been assessing which Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids members are still eligible for their coverage.

Thousands of Georgia children have [been disenrolled from Medicaid as a result](#). That's why it's important for parents to verify their kids' coverage status now. Many Georgia kids have lost coverage because the state couldn't get in touch with their families or there were other paperwork issues, not because they are ineligible for coverage.

Before your children head back to school, take a moment to confirm that their Medicaid coverage is active. If you discover any issues or need assistance, free, local help is available ([starting here at GHF](#)). Ensuring your children have continuous health coverage means your family can stay focused on their homework, field trips, and everything in between without costly or unnecessary disruptions.

If you, your child, or someone you know is covered by Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids (or were covered at any time since March 2020), now is the time to check your status.

1. Visit [Gateway.ga.gov](https://gateway.ga.gov) and log-in to your account
2. Update your contact information.
3. Check to see if you or your child's coverage is still active.
 - a. If your child's coverage is active, great!
 - b. If your child's coverage stopped in the last three months, you may still be able to submit paperwork to belatedly renew it. You may have a Gateway message that details what actions you need to complete.
 - c. If your child's coverage stopped more than three months ago, they may still be eligible for Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids. If you or your child meet the eligibility criteria ([check here!](#)), submit a new application for coverage.

If you or someone you know needs assistance navigating a Medicaid renewal or application, [support is available here.](#)

GHF'S CELEBRATION OF PROGRESS & POSSIBILITIES

You're Invited!

Join us for an evening of celebration and reflection as we come together to recognize the significant strides made in health advocacy and policy over the past year. GHF's [Celebration of Progress & Possibilities 2024](#) will bring together partners, volunteers, leaders, and advocates who have been instrumental in driving positive change for our state. This is an opportunity to honor achievements that have moved our state forward, share stories about how far we've come, and look forward to future possibilities.



- **When: Thursday, September 12, 2024, 6-8 pm**
- **Where: Trees Atlanta, 825 Warner St SW Suite A, Atlanta, GA 30310**

Mark your calendar and join us for an inspiring and energizing evening together! RSVP today!

[Register Now!](#)

**BECOME A COVERAGE CAPTAIN! JOIN THE COVER GEORGIA TEAM
WORKING TO CLOSE GEORGIA'S COVERAGE GAP**



**COVER
GEORGIA**

The [Cover Georgia](#) coalition (which GHF co-leads) works together to expand access to health care for all Georgians, especially those who can least afford it.

Now Cover Georgia is looking for Coverage Captains like you to help reach more Georgians about the need to close our state's coverage gap! Coverage Captains are local point people who engage their communities, connect more organizations and individuals to the coalition, and educate elected officials about this important issue!

A Coverage Captain is a **part-time, paid, contract position** that will include monthly meetings and coordinating community outreach events. You will serve as the point person for your county (or a small group of counties). The position will require about 15 hours of work per month.

We are looking for community members to serve as Coverage Captains in the following counties: **Clarke; Dougherty (and neighboring counties); Effingham, Liberty, and Bryan; Hall; Houston; and Whitfield (or very close by).**

Primary goal: Expand awareness of health coverage issues and the benefits of Medicaid expansion/closing the coverage gap in Georgia

Primary responsibility: Advocate on a county (or several county) level via educational events/workshops and community outreach

If you live in one of the counties listed above and are interested in being a Coverage Captain, please read the full role description [here](#), and click the link to apply! (We are especially interested in working with Coverage Captains who may be uninsured or in the coverage gap themselves, or who know people who are uninsured.)

Apply To Be A Coverage Captain

INITIAL MEETING OF HEALTH COVERAGE COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS CURRENT PROGRAMS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that a new Commission of health leaders has begun meeting to explore how to improve access to care for low-income and uninsured Georgians?

Georgia's new [Comprehensive Health Coverage Commission](#) held its first meeting last Thursday, July 25th. Established this spring by state leaders, the Commission will spend the next 18 months advising decision-makers on health care access and quality for low-income and uninsured Georgians. The Cover Georgia Coalition has released a [recap blog of the meeting here](#).



A key issue that GHF and the Cover Georgia coalition hope the Commission will address is Georgia's health coverage gap. Closing this gap would allow nearly half a million Georgians to gain health coverage, so they can affordably go to the doctor and get medications when they're sick.

During the Commission's virtual kick-off meeting, members introduced themselves and outlined their areas of expertise and interest. They heard from Lynnette Rhodes, Chief Health Policy Officer at the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) about the state's Medicaid program, enrollment trends, and the impacts of major new policies like the Medicaid unwinding, the Pathways to Coverage program, and more.

John King, Commissioner of the Georgia Office of Insurance and Safety Fire, also presented. He focused on reinsurance and the upcoming launch of [Georgia Access](#), the new state-based exchange set to go live on November 1st. This new platform will transition Georgia off healthcare.gov and shift management of the state marketplace to the Georgia Department of Insurance. (Check out [GHF's blog here](#) for more information.)

The Commission members discussed their own priorities and interests within the scope of the group's charges. Chair of the Commission, Caylee Noggle, mentioned that an upcoming meeting will specifically address Georgia's uninsured population.

You can re-watch the Commission's meeting [here](#), or read [Cover Georgia's full meeting summary here](#). If you missed it earlier, check out Cover Georgia's statement about the Commission appointments [here](#).

Stay tuned for more updates about the Commission's work and opportunities for you to get involved!

GEORGIA'S PATHWAYS TO COVERAGE PROGRAM: FALLING SHORT IN ITS FIRST YEAR

July 1st marked the first anniversary of [Georgia's Pathways to Coverage](#) program, a new limited Medicaid program for low-income adults. In its first year, the Pathways program has faced significant challenges, enrolling just over 4,300 individuals—well below its target range of 31,000 to 100,000. This shortfall highlights the limits of Pathways for meeting the coverage needs of Georgia's uninsured population.



One program challenge is that eligible Georgians have to jump over tedious paperwork hurdles to enroll and keep their coverage.

The slow results from Pathways's first program year present Georgia leaders with an opportunity to learn and consider more effective options. The Cover Georgia coalition will continue to urge Governor Kemp and legislators to consider fully closing Georgia's coverage gap.

For more information on the Pathways to Coverage program's first year and recommendations for improvement, [read the full press release](#) from the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute and Georgians for a Healthy Future.

GHF JOINS NATIONAL EFFORT TO EMPOWER FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Georgians for a Healthy Future has recently kicked off the first year of a four-year initiative focused on caregivers. The "[Amplifying the Power of Family Caregiver Voices Project](#)," aims to support the 53 million family caregivers in the U.S. who provide daily living assistance to someone living with a chronic health condition, disability, or both. In partnership with [Community](#)



Catalyst and the [LeadingAge LTSS Center @ UMass Boston](#), GHF will engage and partner with caregivers in Georgia communities to lift up their voices and experiences. With efforts specifically directed at caregivers from under-resourced communities in Georgia, this effort will help improve the recognition, support, and inclusion of family caregivers.

*“Family caregivers are unwavering pillars in our health care and public health systems, enabling millions of people to live more independently, with dignity and self-determination,” said **Georgians for a Healthy Future Executive Director Laura Colbert**. “They are often tasked with navigating a maze of responsibilities, from performing complex medical tasks to providing daily living assistance. The fact that bridging these gaps in care is often unfamiliar territory does not prevent them from going above and beyond.”*

Supported by the [Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#), this project is just one part of a national effort to address the unmet needs of caregivers across the country and help implement policy changes recommended by the [RAISE National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#).

Collaborating with organizations across eight other states, GHF aims to bring greater recognition, support, and inclusion of caregivers into diverse communities across the country – advancing policy and practice level changes that increase awareness of caregiving issues and increase engagement of caregivers in decision-making.

This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$5,333,332 with 75 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and \$1,333,332 amount and 25 percentage funded by non-government source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

GHF IN THE NEWS

- **Now Habersham** | July 12, 2024 | [State Medicaid expansion plan falls short, says policy organization](#)
- **Axios Atlanta** | June 1, 2024: [Experts urge Georgia to reform health insurance system](#)

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