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State of Georgia Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan:

A Statewide Effort to Help Children and Families Thrive

2020-2030



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Why Do We Need a State Plan?

Child abuse and neglect remains a major public health problem — and the public's health problem. Georgia currently ranks 38th in the nation for child wellbeing, which is measured by abuse rates and a variety of other factors which also contribute to maltreatment. Early adversity in life has lasting impacts, with effects stretching from childhood and adolescence into adulthood. Risk for interpersonal violence starts at birth and continues across the lifespan. Where there is one form of violence, there are often other forms of violence. Exposure to interpersonal or familial violence early in life is in and of itself a risk factor for involvement in violence later in life (both victimization and perpetration). Additionally, adversity and trauma in childhood has an added risk for lifelong adverse health, social, and economic consequences. Survivors of abuse or neglect are more likely to have behavioral and mental health problems, have higher rates of incarceration or involvement with the juvenile justice system, develop chronic diseases, and have lower annual incomes. The impact of resulting costs, financially and in the wellbeing of Georgia's citizenry, is a primary reason for needed a state plan for prevention.

For a goal as complex as the prevention of child abuse, a well-planned, broad-based strategy is essential.

Child abuse and neglect is not solely a topic for law enforcement or child protective services, or any one state agency. Multiple agency prevention plans exist, although they are not always in alignment. Therefore, comprehensive, coordinated, and cross-agency and public-private effort is necessary. Not one strategy or one agency can prevent it.

Child abuse and neglect is preventable! We believe that a state prevention plan will surface effective approaches to increasing safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children and families. It will enable us to capture the comprehensive impact of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention efforts from state, regional, and local agencies and organizations. It will provide us with a means of accountability for charting where we are, where we need to be, and when we have reached our goals.

A state child abuse prevention plan is a blueprint for action.

The information summarized in this booklet was gathered over a six-month period. We sought input in a variety of ways, including the following:

- 25 public **Regional Sessions** at community-based and -accessible locations around the state, covering all 14 Division of Family and Children Services regions. Nearly 650 individuals attended these sessions, including 525 service providers and professionals and 110 parents, caregivers, civic and faith leaders, and community members.
- Two **leadership meetings** among State of Georgia departments and divisions, convened by the Director of the Division of Children and Families, Tom Rawlings. The purpose was to secure buy-in at the start of the work and approval of the resulting plan.

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- Two **Champion Sessions** for identified point persons who represented their respective agencies and organizations in planning and ensured internal communication of plan progress. Additional video conferences and one-on-one meetings were held with champions unable to attend the sessions, and an online data-collection tool was used to collect and integrate their input.
- Two **statewide surveys** — one for service providers and professionals, and one for parents, caregivers, civic and faith leaders, and community members — completed by 801 Georgians from 158 counties.



What Is Child Abuse?

Child abuse includes neglect, psychological or emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse.

Experts contend that **reported cases of sexual abuse represent only a small portion of the actual prevalence of sexual abuse, estimating that 1 in 10 will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.** Child abuse is against the law and on average, child protective services receives over 100,000 reports of abuse annually in Georgia. Child abuse and neglect has both short term and long-term negative impacts.

for children, families, communities and society.

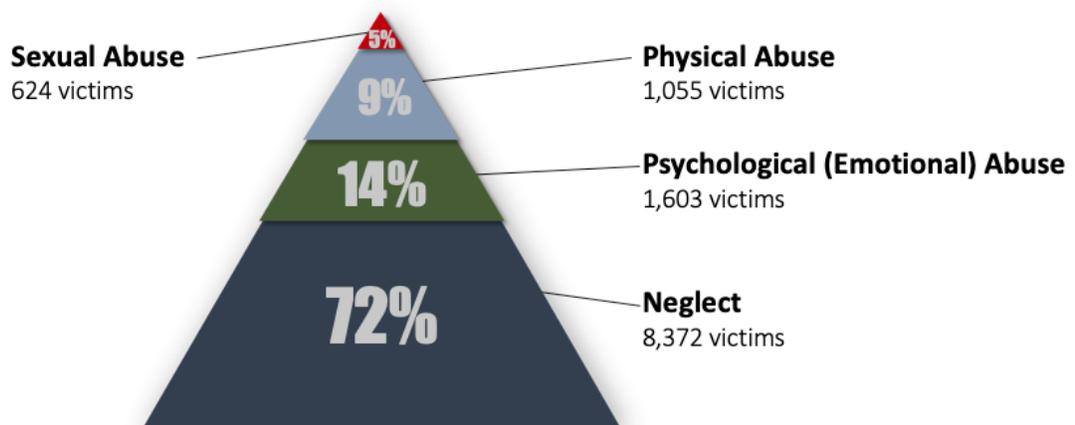
- Neglect is the most common form of child abuse. Neglect is failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, or supervision, or failure to meet emotional or psychological needs.
- Psychological (emotional) abuse is excessive or aggressive behavior that places unreasonable demands on a child or sends a hurtful message to a child and attacks the child's emotional development and sense of self-worth. This usually occurs as verbal abuse.

Experts agree that most child abuse goes unreported.

- Physical abuse is defined as an injury or pattern of injuries to a child that is non-accidental.
- Sexual abuse is exploitation of a child for sexual gratification of an adult or older child and may include acts from fondling to penetration.
- The primary caregiver or other trusted adults are most often the abusers and most of the abuse takes place inside the home, where children should be the safest. Child abuse crosses all economic, racial, social, ethnic, and religious boundaries.

Maltreatment in Georgia, 2017

Victim counts for Georgia in 2017 (based on data released in 2019)



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). Child Maltreatment 2017. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>

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Why does child abuse and neglect persist?

Child maltreatment is not caused by a single factor but by multiple factors related to the individual, family, community, and society at large. Environments that are violent, lack accessible and effective community resources and are disproportionately affected by poverty or unemployment all contribute to family stressors that may lead to child maltreatment.

Additionally, cultural norms and beliefs, including societal tolerance and promotion of violence and acceptance of corporal punishment may impair caregivers' ability to create safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. Individual factors that may contribute to maltreatment:

- There is a lack of parenting knowledge.
- Parents are socially isolated.
- Parents have unmet emotional needs.
- Parents are experiencing financial or other stress.
- There is a drug or alcohol problem in the home.
- A parent regards a child as special or different.
- Parents themselves were abused as children.
- The use of violence or force is condoned as a problem-solving method.

Child abuse is a vicious cycle — abused children can grow up to be abusive parents. Children learn how to respond to stress and interact with others from the environment in which they were raised. Violence, stress and chaos lead to poor social and emotional development in children which may make them vulnerable to repeating the same abusive behaviors they experienced as children.



What Are the Important Components?

In “Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities,” the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — Division of Violence Prevention proposes the following strategies and approaches to address child maltreatment across different levels of their model for social ecology (Society, Communities, Relationships, and Individuals). The strategies and approaches may work in combination, forming a truly comprehensive and multi-faceted prevention ecosystem.

Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect

Strategy



Example Approach

- Strengthening Economic Supports
 - Changing Social Norms
 - Providing Quality Early Childhood Care & Education
 - Promoting Healthy Child Development
 - Preventing Future Risk
- Family-friendly work policies
 - Public awareness & education
 - Expanding access to quality education in rural communities
 - Evidence-based parenting skills programs
 - Enhanced access to primary care

Fortson, B. L., Klevens, J., Merrick, M. T., Gilbert, L. K., & Alexander, S. P. (2016). Preventing child abuse and neglect: A technical package for policy, norm, and programmatic activities. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/can-prevention-technical-package.pdf>

What Kinds of Programs Do We Need?

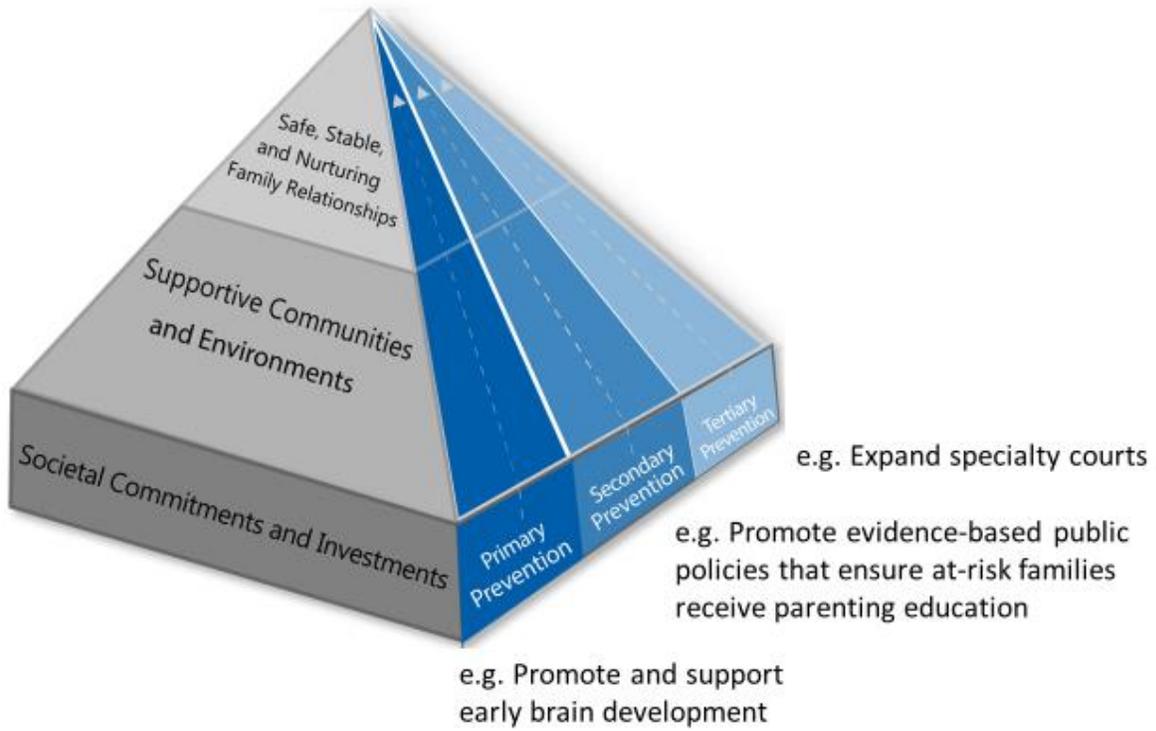
Families change as they develop through a lifespan. Their needs and resources vary considerably from one stage to another. Ideally, communities that are committed to preventing child abuse will develop a comprehensive approach to the prevention of child abuse made up of a continuum of services that are targeted to different populations and different phases of the family cycle.

Child abuse prevention activities must include all three types of prevention, ideally across the different levels of the social ecology:

- **Primary prevention:** programs and services designed to promote the general well-being of children and families. Also known as universal prevention, examples of this include a statewide investment in universally accessible programs such as affordable, quality child care at the societal level or a program available to all families, regardless of demographics or income, such as the First Steps Georgia screening and referral program at the top of the pyramid below.
- **Secondary prevention:** programs designed to help identify families who are at high risk for abuse and to provide services to them. As with primary prevention, secondary prevention programs or services are implemented for families who have not been identified to the child welfare system as no abuse or neglect has occurred. Programs or services in this category have been proven to be effective in preventing child maltreatment but due to expense or limited trained providers are not scalable to be universally available. Certain established risk factors for abuse or neglect are used to determine eligibility for these programs or services. An example of a highly impactful secondary prevention program at the family level (top of the pyramid) is evidence-based home visiting. At the Supportive Communities and Environments level of the pyramid, an example of secondary prevention are Family Resource Centers and other members of the Georgia Family Support Network.
- **Tertiary prevention:** services provided after abuse or neglect occurs, designed to prevent the recurrence of abuse. Once the unfortunate event of child maltreatment occurs and a family is identified to the child welfare system at the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (GA DFCS), tertiary prevention services or programs are utilized to prevent a recurrence and to mitigate the impact of the abuse or neglect. An example at the Safe, Stable, and Nurturing Family Relationships level would be substance-abuse treatment for parents who have been reported to GA DFCS. At the Societal Commitments and Investments level, the federal government's Family First Prevention Services Act, aimed at preventing children and youth from coming into foster care, is a prime example of tertiary prevention.

The pyramid below can be found at: <https://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/prevention-model/> . It is an interactive tool which identifies examples of Georgia's programs, services, or policies at each level.

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What Is Georgia’s Vision for Prevention?

Despite the complex factors that can lead to child abuse, child abuse can be prevented — in fact, most people are already participating in prevention activities without realizing it! Common actions like mentoring children and youth, participating in community activities and campaigns, donating to service providers, supporting another parent in a challenging situation and engaging in advocacy count towards prevention.

Essentially, any action, program, or policy that strengthens families and communities should be considered child abuse prevention.

Georgia’s vision and goals for prevention of child abuse and neglect promote this collective approach.

Georgia’s Vision for Prevention

All Georgia’s children and families have equitable opportunities to grow and thrive in safe, stable, connected, and nurturing communities where they live, learn, work, and play.

What Are Georgia’s Goals for Prevention?

When we come together with a common cause we can make important conditions a reality. The following overarching goals reflect what the results of our collective action regarding Georgia’s families, systems/governments and society must achieve.

Goals for Families

1. All parents and caregivers have the skills and tools to meet the physical, intellectual, and emotional needs of their children.
2. All children have the tools, skills, and support needed to meet their potential.
3. All families have equitable access to culturally responsive services and resources in their communities to meet their needs.
4. Families are engaged in prevention-planning and evaluation efforts.

Goals for Systems/Governments

1. All community, commerce, and state systems have integrated policies, training, programs and budgets that promote family and child well-being.
2. Systems collaborate and cooperate in planning and implementing a comprehensive continuum of prevention services including but not limited to strengthening economic supports to families, implementing family-friendly policies, and providing quality care and education.

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3. Permanent and adequate financial resources are equitably allocated to develop and maintain prevention strategies.
4. All services and supports to children and families utilize trauma-informed, strength-based practices to intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk.

Goals for Society

1. All Georgia citizens are accountable for the protection and well-being of our children.
2. Prevention is valued as essential and achievable with collective action.
3. Society invests in children early and throughout their lives.
4. Georgia has increased equitable opportunities and access to services and resources that foster child well-being.
5. Social norms reflect a culture that supports and sustains safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

What Are Georgia's Objectives for Prevention?

For collective action to work, we must hold ourselves accountable to making a difference in changing existing community conditions. This focus must be inclusive of all Georgia's families and children. Georgia's plan must change the following conditions:

- Increase family economic stability
- Increase family resiliency
- Increase access to early childhood education
- Increase family mental health
- Increase family physical health
- Increase community knowledge and awareness of child abuse and neglect

What Can We Do?

Everyone has a role to play in prevention. Leadership, resources, policies, efforts, and time must be committed to the process of prevention planning, implementation, and accountability. Collaboration is essential. Child abuse prevention cannot be done by any one profession, agency, or community alone.

Planning

Community prevention planning teams should include representatives from all community systems and sectors and involve families as well. Developing a plan takes time, creativity, and patience. Commitment over time is essential.

Programs

No single program, strategy or approach will be enough to prevent child abuse in your community. Many different services, programs, and strategies need to be put in place at once. Programs need to do the following:

- Be available and accessible to **all** populations.
- Be initiated early.
- Cut across related problems.
- Recognize cultural differences and inequities.
- Build on family strengths.
- Provide intensive services to those most at risk.
- Be appropriate to address different type of maltreatment.
- Be evidence based or at minimum have promising results.
- Be evaluated regularly.

Accountability

Management of prevention planning requires ongoing monitoring of progress toward achieving the comprehensive integration of prevention strategies in the community. Evaluation of prevention programs and activities is essential and should be an integral component of every prevention activity. It will be necessary to determine what group will be responsible for oversight of your community prevention plan.

At a state level, Champion agencies and organizations will meet each year to review the plan for alignment with current strategic priorities and initiatives, and to report on successes toward the plan's objectives and strategies.

How Can My Group Get Involved?

Each community is different and should prioritize the development of prevention programs after evaluating existing services and identifying gaps. Each sector of the community has a role to play in developing a comprehensive child abuse prevention program.

In the lists below, these strategies have been organized by audience — specifically looking at how you and your community can engage with this plan. If you would like additional information or more detailed descriptions of any of these strategies, or information about promising prevention programs, contact Prevent Child Abuse Georgia (PreventChildAbuseGA@gsu.edu) or the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services — Prevention and Community Support Section (GADFCSS.Prevention@dhs.ga.gov).

Note: The following strategies are not in any order of importance.

For all sectors of the community

- Expand local collaborations and advocacy across sectors (nonprofit, government, faith, business) aimed at strengthening families and developing solutions to local challenges
- Shape social norms around positive parenting and family help-seeking in times of need (e.g., public-awareness campaigns)
- Promote and support early brain development
- Increase awareness about human trafficking
- Shape social norms around the life-long impact of early-childhood education
- Promote access to internet technology for families with young children
- Shape social norms about mental health and how to recognize and seek help for mental illness/substance abuse
- Promote gun-safety practices and policies
- Increase access to evidence-based or research-informed programs for parenting skills and support
- Expand opportunities for childcare-enrollment assistance
- Improve race relations and promote healing and understanding
- Decrease family violence
- Increase community knowledge and awareness of the incidence and long-term impact of childhood abuse and neglect, as well as how to accurately recognize and report suspected cases
- Increase community partnerships and collaborations around child-abuse prevention
- Expand trauma-informed practices and resources across the state
- Promote evidence-based behavioral health assessment and treatment models for all ages (e.g., Mental-Health First Aid, Trauma-Informed Care)
- Expand access to affordable insurance coverage for all Georgians
- Use data to inform prevention programs and strategies (including child death review data)
- Develop partnerships with other key sectors to identify champions for advocating for prevention policies

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Workplace/Business

- Increase access to post-secondary-education degrees and certificate programs
- Expand access to affordable childcare for parents who are working or in school (e.g., tax breaks for companies that offer on-site or subsidized childcare).
- Increase wages so that full-time employment does not result in households living at or below the federal poverty level
- Expand opportunities for youth to explore career options before high-school graduation
- Expand efforts to develop safe and decent affordable housing for families that are working or studying or have a disabled head of household
- Expand small-business development and support programs
- Expand programs aimed at parents who are ex-offenders
- Promote/adopt evidence-based family-friendly business policies (e.g., family leave, release time to attend parent–teacher conferences, on-site childcare)
- Develop and promote incentives for expanding childcare businesses in underserved communities
- Expand telemedicine services

Physical Health Systems

- Promote and expand comprehensive and specialized supports for families of children with disabilities
- Expand telemedicine services
- Promote evidence-based models of sexual-health education for school-aged children and youth (e.g., Teen Maze, Peer Educators)
- Promote strategies and programs aimed at increasing food sufficiency
- Improve maternal and infant health access

Behavioral Health Systems

- Increase availability of evidence-based or research-informed programs for parenting skills and support
- Promote evidence-based public policies that ensure at-risk families receive parenting education
- Expand school-based mental health resources
- Increase accessibility of local, community-based programs and services for substance-abuse recovery treatment
- Implement tele-/web-based mental-health and substance-abuse resources in underserved communities
- Implement evidence-based anti-bullying programs and strategies in all schools
- Increase access to low-/no-cost behavioral health services for low-income families
- Expand substance-abuse-prevention programs aimed at school-aged children and youth
- Expand specialty courts (e.g., drug, mental health)
- Promote evidence-based models of sexual-health education for school-aged children and youth (e.g., Teen Maze, Peer Educators)
- Evaluate norms related to seeking mental health services and change norms if needed

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Education

Early Education

- Develop and promote incentives for expanding childcare businesses in underserved communities
- Support elementary schools in accessing pre-K slots in communities with limited ECE infrastructure
- Increase access to quality-rated early care and learning programs across the state
- Promote and expand comprehensive and specialized supports for families of children with disabilities

K-12 Education

- Increase life-skills training for school-aged children and youth (e.g., financial literacy as a core competency)
- Promote and expand comprehensive and specialized supports for families of children with disabilities
- Expand school-based mental health resources
- Implement evidence-based anti-bullying programs and strategies in all schools
- Expand substance-abuse-prevention programs aimed at school-aged children and youth
- Promote evidence-based models of sexual-health education for school-aged children and youth
- Increase focus on school-safety planning and practices (e.g. increased security technology)
- Expand opportunities for youth to explore career options before high-school graduation
- Increase efforts to ensure school buses are safe (e.g., bus monitors)
- Promote strategies and programs aimed at increasing food sufficiency

Post-secondary Education

- Increase access to post-secondary-education degrees and certificate programs
- Expand small-business development and support programs
- Expand programs aimed at parents who are ex-offenders
- Increase adult literacy

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Social/Human Services

- Increase life-skills training for school-aged children and youth (e.g., financial literacy as a core competency)
- Expand opportunities for youth to explore career options before high-school graduation
- Expand efforts to develop safe and decent affordable housing for families that are working or studying or have a disabled head of household
- Expand small-business development and support programs
- Expand programs aimed at parents who are ex-offenders
- Increase adult literacy
- Increase availability of evidence-based or research-informed programs for parenting skills and support
- Promote evidence-based public policies that ensure at-risk families receive parenting education
- Promote and expand comprehensive and specialized supports for families of children with disabilities
- Increase access to quality-rated early care and learning programs across the state
- Support elementary schools in accessing pre-K slots in communities with limited ECE infrastructure
- Expand school-based mental health resources
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- Implement tele-/web-based mental-health and substance-abuse resources in underserved communities
- Expand substance-abuse-prevention programs aimed at school-aged children and youth
- Expand specialty courts (e.g., drug, mental health)
- Expand telemedicine services
- Promote evidence-based models of sexual-health education for school-aged children and youth (e.g., Teen Maze, Peer Educators)
- Promote strategies and programs aimed at increasing food sufficiency
- Improve maternal and infant health access
- Promote, link and support information and referral systems
- Promote quality standards for providers of prevention programs

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Local and State Government

- Expand access to affordable childcare for parents who are working or in school (e.g., tax breaks for companies that offer on-site or subsidized childcare).
- Increase wages so that full-time employment does not result in households living at or below the federal poverty level
- Expand efforts to develop safe and decent affordable housing for families that are working or studying or have a disabled head of household
- Expand programs aimed at parents who are ex-offenders
- Promote evidence-based public policies that ensure at-risk families receive parenting education
- Promote/adopt evidence-based family-friendly business policies (e.g., family leave, release time to attend parent–teacher conferences, on-site childcare)
- Promote and expand comprehensive and specialized supports for families of children with disabilities
- Increase access to quality-rated early care and learning programs across the state
- Develop and promote incentives for expanding childcare businesses in underserved communities
- Support elementary schools in accessing pre-K slots in communities with limited ECE infrastructure
- Expand eligibility to Georgia’s Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)
- Expand school-based mental health resources
- Increase accessibility of local, community-based programs and services for substance-abuse recovery treatment
- Implement tele-/web-based mental-health and substance-abuse resources in underserved communities
- Increase access to low-/no-cost behavioral health services for low-income families
- Expand substance-abuse-prevention programs aimed at school-aged children and youth
- Expand specialty courts (e.g., drug, mental health)
- Expand telemedicine services
- Increase focus on school-safety planning and practices (e.g. increased security technology)
- Increase efforts to ensure school buses are safe (e.g., bus monitors)
- Improve maternal and infant health access
- Promote poverty-informed training for local and state policy makers
- Promote evidence-based public policies that expand resources for the prevention of child abuse and neglect
- Promote, link and support information and referral systems
- Promote quality standards for providers of prevention programs
- Enhance knowledge of effective framing and messaging of prevention information and policies

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Public & Private Investment

- Expand access to affordable childcare for parents who are working or in school (e.g., tax breaks for companies that offer on-site or subsidized childcare).
- Increase life-skills training for school-aged children and youth (e.g., financial literacy as a core competency)
- Increase access to post-secondary-education degrees and certificate programs
- Expand opportunities for youth to explore career options before high-school graduation
- Expand efforts to develop safe and decent affordable housing for families that are working or studying or have a disabled head of household
- Expand small-business development and support programs
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- Implement evidence-based anti-bullying programs and strategies in all schools
- Expand substance-abuse-prevention programs aimed at school-aged children and youth
- Expand specialty courts (e.g., drug, mental health)
- Expand telemedicine services
- Promote evidence-based models of sexual-health education for school-aged children and youth (e.g., Teen Maze, Peer Educators)
- Promote strategies and programs aimed at increasing food sufficiency
- Improve maternal and infant health access
- Expand funding of programs and services for child-abuse prevention
- Promote quality standards for providers of prevention programs

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Legal and Law Enforcement

- Expand programs aimed at parents who are ex-offenders
- Expand specialty courts (e.g., drug, mental health)
- Increase focus on school-safety planning and practices (e.g. increased security technology)
- Increase efforts to ensure school buses are safe (e.g., bus monitors)

Faith Communities and Civic Groups

- Expand programs aimed at parents who are ex-offenders
- Increase adult literacy
- Increase availability of evidence-based or research-informed programs for parenting skills and support
- Develop and promote incentives for expanding childcare businesses in underserved communities
- Promote evidence-based models of sexual-health education for school-aged children and youth (e.g., Teen Maze, Peer Educators)
- Promote strategies and programs aimed at increasing food sufficiency

Future opportunities

We recognize that some critical prevention strategies are not yet ready for community action. While these opportunities should be acknowledged, they are not formally addressed in Georgia's plan. Opportunities for future focus in Georgia include addressing complex transportation issues that limit access to resources such as primary medical and behavioral health care, education and employment opportunities; implementing more consistent approaches to monitoring and responding to bullying in local school districts; expanding the use of evidence-based stress reduction programs in the schools; and expanding community health screenings.

The Economics of Prevention

Every opportunity and pathway that has been shown to reduce child maltreatment has significant potential for cost savings. If we prevent just one child abuse or neglect victim, **we are saving almost a quarter million dollars over their life in costs to the state and society.**



For the 21,757 Georgia children who had substantiated case of maltreatment in 2015 alone, their lifetime cost is almost 5 billion dollars.

Georgia's Prevention Priorities

Economic Stability

For every \$1.00 added to the minimum wage, child abuse and neglect rates are reduced by 10%.

Children living in low-income families are at a greater risk for maltreatment. In Georgia, 20% of children are living below the federal poverty line, which is an annual income of \$25,100 or less for a family of four.

Parental Resilience

Evidence-based parenting programs have shown a significant return on investment. SafeCare (National Head Quarters in Georgia) has shown a **\$21.60 return for every \$1 invested** in the program.

Federal funds authorized through the Family First Prevention Services Act will prioritize increasing the availability of such programs.

Family Health and Wellbeing

Expanded healthcare access is associated with decreased rates of child neglect.

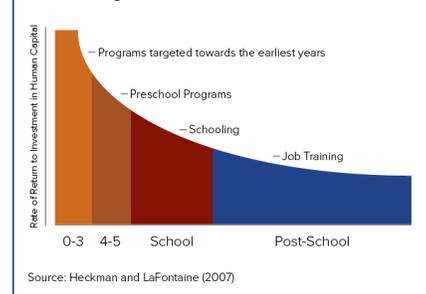
Paid Family Leave policies have been shown to significantly decrease abusive head trauma seen in hospitals for children under 2-years-old.

Access to Quality Early Childhood Education

The National Forum on Early Childhood Policy and Programs has found that high quality early childhood programs can yield a \$4 – \$9 dollar return per \$1 invested.

Investments made in children birth to 3 years of age have the highest return on investment.

Figure 2: Returns to a Unit Dollar Invested are Highest in Earliest Years



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How Did This Plan Come Together?

In May 2019, Director Tom Rawlings of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) convened a meeting of child-serving State agencies and influential statewide organizations and coalitions to discuss updating Georgia’s Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan, the first revision since its establishment in 1993. Each entity identified a representative champion to participate in strategic planning conversations and internally communicate progress and requests. After a Champions kick-off in July 2019, 25 planning sessions took place across the 14 DFCS regions — 14 sessions with service providers and professionals, and 11 sessions with parents, caregivers, local leaders (government, civic/community, faith, and business), and community members — in August–September 2019. About 635 individuals took part in the sessions. At the same time, two surveys aimed at similar audiences were shared statewide, in both physical and digital (webform) formats, with 801 surveys submitted.

Six strategic objectives and 50 strategies were identified during the 14 provider and 11 community planning sessions. The following objectives are presented in the order of frequency in which they were identified across the 14 regions.

Priority Plan Objectives	# of Regions
Increase family economic stability	14
Increase family resiliency	13
Increase access to early childhood education	12
Increase family mental health	11
Increase family physical health	11
Increase community knowledge and awareness of child abuse and neglect	8

At a follow-up Champions Retreat Planning Session in November 2019, participants validated the existing objectives and strategies. They also identified an additional 12 strategies, both under the existing 6 objectives and outside of them, based on their agencies’ and organizations’ existing strategic priorities and initiatives that address prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Between January–March 2020, a planning task force of volunteers from the Champions met twice in person, in addition to individual work and e-mail conversations, to review the draft plans (this plan as well as a longer plan including all aligned efforts from Champion agencies and organizations) and prepare them for public review in February 2020 and final approval by leaders of state agencies in March 2020.

The project was facilitated by Chris Allers, PhD and Mathew George of Advantage Consulting, LLC (www.advantageconsultingllc.com).

Agency and Organizational Champions

We thank the following State agencies and organizations for their time, energy, and leadership through the development of this plan.

- Banyan Communications
- Bright from the Start: Georgia
Department of Early Care and Learning
- Care Solutions / CAPTA Panels
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta,
Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and
Healthy Children
- Council of Juvenile Court Judges of
Georgia
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Douglas County Juvenile Court
- Emory University School of Nursing
- First TEAM America
- Fulton County Juvenile Court
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Child
Fatality Review
- Georgia CASA
- Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
- Georgia Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics
- Georgia Department of Behavioral
Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Georgia Department of Community
Affairs
- Georgia Department of Community
Health
- Georgia Department of Community
Supervision
- Georgia Department of Corrections
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
- Georgia Department of Public Health,
Injury Prevention Program
- Georgia Department of Public Health,
Maternal and Child Health Section
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Georgia Division of Family and Children
Services
- Georgia Early Education Alliance for
Ready Students (GEEARS)
- Georgia Family Connection Partnership/
Get Georgia Reading
- Georgia Office of the Child Advocate
- Georgia State University School of
Social Work / Child Welfare Training
Collaborative
- Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network
- Governor's Office of Student
Achievement
- Kennesaw State University School of
Social Work
- Mental Health America of Georgia
- Prevent Child Abuse Georgia
- Strengthening Families Georgia
- Technical College System of Georgia
- Truancy Intervention Project Georgia
- United Way of Greater Atlanta
- University of Georgia Center for Family
Research
- Voices for Georgia’s Children

DRAFT

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CANPP Leadership Team

Natalie Towns, Section Director, Prevention and Community Support Section, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

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The Prevention and Community Support Section (PCS) works within the Division and in partnership with community-based organizations to reduce child abuse and neglect. Using state and federal funding streams, PCS supports the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed practices and programs to improve outcomes for children and families. PCS also functions as the Children’s Trust Fund entity for the state of Georgia.

Julia Neighbors, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia (PCA GA) is a state chapter of [Prevent Child Abuse America](#) and is housed within the School of Public Health at Georgia State University’s [Mark Chaffin Center for Healthy Development](#) (since January 2012). PCA Georgia provides statewide direction to build safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments to prevent child abuse and neglect and has over 20 local councils located throughout the state who advocate and implement prevention practices in their communities.

Chris Allers PhD, Partner, & Mathew George, Associate, Advantage Consulting, LLC

Advantage Consulting LLC (AC) has been providing responsive and engaging consulting services to leaders in Georgia and across the nation since 2008. They help nonprofits, foundations and governments maximize their impact by designing solutions that take advantage of their existing assets and developing new strategies that allow them to expand their reach. AC consultants not only have deep roots in the social sector, but also leverage relevant private sector thinking and approaches.

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