

What is Family Support Services?

Family Support Services are an array of services and assistance, based on each family's unique needs, which are provided to families with an individual who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability. Family Support Services are based on the value that families belong together where they are loved and cared for. These supports meet every day needs that are often critical in avoiding family crises that are not only cost the family financially but emotionally as well.

“Family Support Services helped us get what we needed and stay together as a family.”



“The family support staff really listened to our family's needs.”

Who is Eligible for Family Support Services?

Individuals, 3 and up, living in Georgia that have been diagnosed with a developmental disability who are living at home, with their family, are eligible for Family Support Services.

Developmental disabilities include, but are not limited to: Developmental Disability, Intellectual Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, and Severe Chronic Disability.

Please note that services are not an entitlement, which means they may not be available to all eligible families because of limited funding. Limited funding also means that Family Support Services typically can't meet all of a family's needs -- but they help in very significant and important ways.

What Services Do Family Support Provide?

Family Support Services provide services and goods that are individualized to meet your family's needs. A Family Support Coordinator will work with your family to develop an Individualized Family Support Service Plan. Some of the services might include:

- Information and referral.
- Assistance in identifying needs.
- Advocacy to obtain needed services or benefits.
- Assistance locating and acquiring services like:
 - Respite and child care
 - Adaptive equipment and assistive technology
 - Accessibility modifications to the family's home or car
 - Parent education
 - Special diets, clothing, and personal care items
 - Social and recreational activities
 - Transportation to medical and other important appointments
 - Medical and dental expenses not covered by insurance
 - Other services and supports unique to each family's needs.

How Do Families Apply for Services?

Family Support Services are provided by local agencies with funding from one of Georgia's six (6) Regional Offices. To apply for services, contact a local FSS provider directly. For a list of agencies providing Family Support Services, contact the Regional Office in your area.

Region I Toll Free: 1-877-217-4462.

Counties include: Banks, Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Cobb, Dade, Dawson, Douglas, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Gilmer, Gordon, Habersham, Hall, Haralson, Hart, Lumpkin, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walker, White, and Whitfield.

Region II Toll Free: 1-877-551-4897

Counties include Baldwin, Barrow, Bibb, Burke, Clarke, Columbia, Elbert, Emanuel, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jenkins, Jones, Lincoln, Madison, McDuffie, Monroe, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Putnam, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Twiggs, Walton, Warren, Washington, Wilkes, and Wilkinson.

Region III Phone: 770-414-3052

Counties include: Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale.

Region IV Toll Free 1-877-683-8557

Counties include: Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Colquitt, Cook, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner, and Worth.

Region V Toll Free: 1-800-348-3503

Counties include: Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Bleckley, Brantley, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Charlton, Chatham, Clinch, Coffee, Dodge, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Pierce, Pulaski, Tattall, Telfair, Toombs, Treuten, Ware, Wayne, Wheeler and Wilcox.

Region VI Phone: 706-565-7835

Counties include: Butts, Carroll, Chattahoochee, Clay, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, Dooly, Fayette, Harris, Heard, Henry, Houston, Lamar, Macon, Marion, Meriwether, Muscogee, Peach, Pike, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Troup, Upson and Webster.

For more information on other programs and services in your area please visit our website at

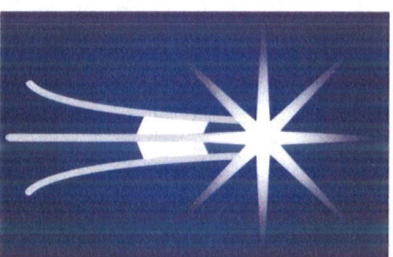
www.dbhdd.georgia.gov

For emergency mental health, developmental disability or addictive disease services, call:

**Georgia Crisis & Access Line:
1-800-715-4225**



Georgia Department of
Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities



DBHDD

Family Support Services

A Division of Developmental
Disabilities Service