

# 2021 Policy Priorities



Policy priorities are public facing legislative and/or administrative policy priorities of the Coalition.

Bucket	Policy Priorities
<b>Full Coalition</b>	
<b>Full Coalition</b>	<p><b>Priority #1:</b> Ensure that Georgia is well-positioned to take advantage of federal opportunities, including grants (e.g., Early Head Start Partnership).</p>
<b>Child Care Affordability Committee</b>	
<b>Access</b>	<p><b>Priority #1:</b> Advocate for significant, dedicated federal funding for Georgia's child care industry to allow programs to remain open and families to access care.</p> <p><b>Priority #2:</b> Adequately fund Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services Program (CAPS) with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve the needs of low-income families, particularly those with infants and toddlers. We believe any additional funding should be allocated to serving a larger proportion of income-eligible families, while also ensuring that reimbursement rates support quality care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, initial income eligibility is 50% of state median income (SMI), which is more stringent than many other states. We should consider expanding initial CAPS eligibility to increase access (e.g., to 65% of the state median income).</li> <li>• Only an estimated 14.8% of eligible children in Georgia currently receive CAPS. To fund all currently income-eligible children aged four and under, it is estimated that an investment of at least \$100 million is needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Workforce</b>	<p><b>Priority #3:</b> Support the infant-toddler workforce by maintaining and expanding existing support systems, such as DECAL Scholars and classroom supports (e.g., inclusion, infant-toddler, and behavioral services).</p>
<b>IECMH Committee</b>	
<b>Programs</b>	<p><b>Priority #1:</b> Ensure adequate funding for Maternal Child Health programs by advocating for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional funding for Children 1st, Home Visiting, and Babies Can't Wait.</li> <li>• Greater clarity, transparency, and regularity of reimbursement for Babies Can't Wait service coordination by CMOs.</li> </ul>

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Bucket	Policy Priorities
<b>IECMH Committee (Continued)</b>	
<b>Programs (Continued)</b>	<b>Priority #2:</b> Support the continuation of telehealth services after the public health emergency ends and examine how changes made to telehealth policies due to the pandemic are working for children, families, and providers.
<b>Medicaid</b>	<b>Priority #3:</b> Ensure Medicaid coverage for and access to IECMH services for children 0-3. <b>Priority #4:</b> Advocate for continuous 12-month Medicaid eligibility for children under five. <b>Priority #5:</b> Extend pregnancy Medicaid out from six months to one-year postpartum to support both mothers and children.