

2023-24 Policy Priorities



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

Policy Priorities

Full Coalition

Priority #1: Help families with young children afford diapers, a basic necessity that keeps babies clean and healthy, by eliminating the state sales tax on diapers.

Priority #2: Ensure that Georgia is well-positioned to take advantage of federal opportunities, such as meeting the state match for relevant programs serving young children and their families.

Child Care Affordability Committee

The Child Care Affordability Committee will work to mitigate the effects of the end of federal pandemic relief funding, which has been a historic and critical lifeline for Georgia child care providers and families, through the following priorities:

Priority #1: Advocate for significant, long-term federal child care funding—similar to the bill considered but not passed in '21-'22—to ensure that every family who needs affordable care can access it and that early childhood educators are adequately compensated for their skilled, essential work.

Priority #2: In light of the early care and education workforce shortage, explore and advocate for compensation strategies (e.g., ongoing supplements, bonuses) and support systems (e.g., educational pathways, recruitment strategies/incentives, benefits, professional and classroom supports) for infant and toddler teachers. Additionally, address pay disparities within the early education workforce, such as those between infant/toddler and Pre-K teachers.

Priority #3: Adequately fund Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services Program (CAPS) with a combination of state and federal dollars to serve the needs of families with low incomes, particularly those with infants and toddlers. Investments should balance maintaining increased access and increasing reimbursement rates to ensure providers can participate in CAPS.

Priority #4: In order to promote alignment and continuity of services, support adequate funding for programs and educator pay in the broader 0-5 space (e.g., Georgia's Pre-K Program) and school-age child care to promote positive outcomes for children and families.

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Child Care Affordability Committee (Continued)

Priority #5: Support the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) in improving Quality Rated, such as by better incorporating cultural responsiveness into the tool and identifying and addressing bottlenecks in the process that slow down or even prevent providers from getting a star rating.

Early Intervention and Family Well-Being Committee

Priority #1: Ensure that the needs of infants, toddlers, and their families are appropriately included in mental health legislation.

Priority #2: Advocate for state funding for evidence-based IECMH services, such as IECMH Consultation, screening, dyadic treatment, and parent skills training, and for additional state agency staff positions focused on IECMH.

Priority #3: Ensure adequate funding for maternal and child health programs by advocating for:

- Additional funding for Children 1st, evidence-based Home Visiting, and Babies Can't Wait; and
- Greater clarity, transparency, and regularity of reimbursement for Babies Can't Wait service coordination by CMOs.

Priority #4: Advocate for Medicaid reimbursement for evidence-based Home Visiting.

Priority #5: Enact multi-year continuous eligibility for children birth to five years old on Medicaid, in order to support continuity of preventive and sick care in the critical early years.