

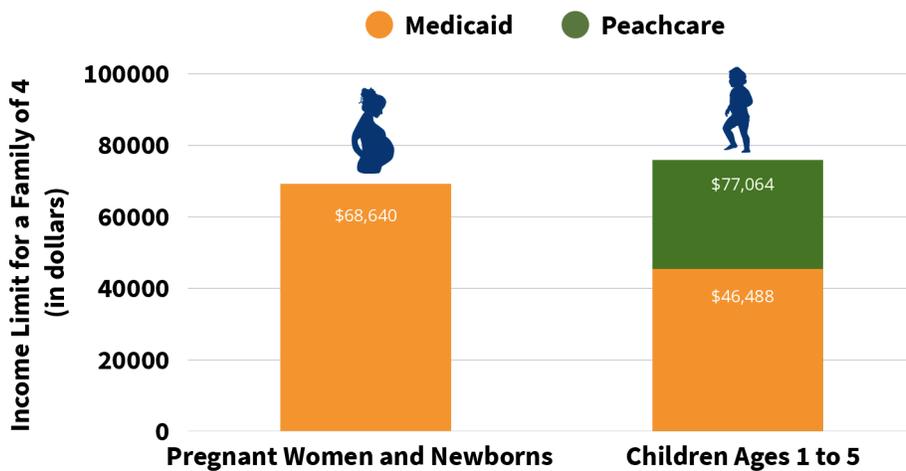
Medicaid & PeachCare’s Role in the Health of Georgia’s Pregnant Women and Young Children

Medicaid and PeachCare provide transformative, life-saving health care coverage for new moms and their little ones across our state.

Health care coverage during pregnancy and the early years of a child’s life provides access to routine doctor’s visits, prevention and treatment of illnesses, and ongoing care for chronic conditions. **Medicaid and PeachCare are key components of our maternal and child health care system.**

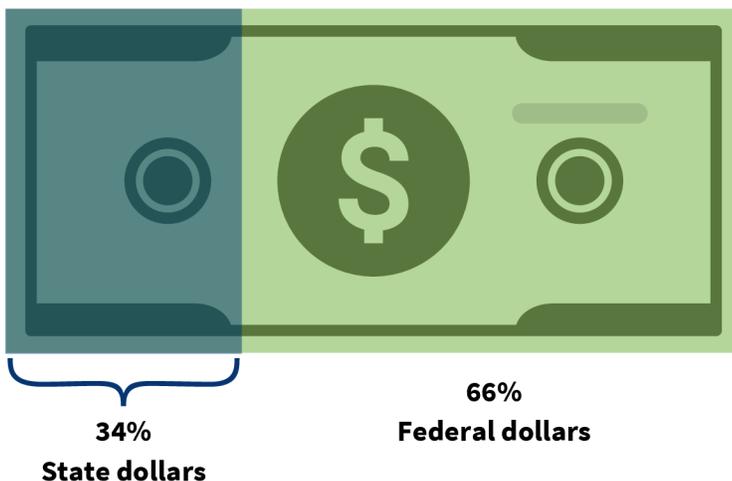
Who is covered?

- **Medicaid** provides health care coverage for...
 - pregnant women, newborns, and children birth through 19 from families with low incomes.
 - children from families with higher incomes who have complex medical needs.
 - all children in foster care.
- **PeachCare for Kids (PeachCare)**, known federally as the Children’s Health Insurance Program, provides health care coverage for children whose family incomes are above the Medicaid eligibility threshold.
- **71%** of total Medicaid and PeachCare enrollees are **children**.¹



Medicaid covers **42%** of Georgia’s children.²

Medicaid Funding in Georgia³



What is covered?

- Prenatal Care & Birth
- Children’s Doctor’s Appointments, Screenings, and Treatment for Illness and Injury
- Early Intervention and Ongoing Care for Young Children with Disabilities

Medicaid Covers Prenatal Care & Birth

For new moms and newborns, Medicaid can cover*:

- Routine visits with prenatal care providers, including screenings and ongoing care for conditions such as gestational diabetes
- Treatment for complications during pregnancy, such as preeclampsia and placental abruptions
- Birth and care during the subsequent hospital stay, including time spent in the neonatal intensive care unit
- Maternal depression screenings and behavioral health care throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period
- Postpartum care after birth, including care for conditions that can put mothers' lives at risk, such as eclampsia and hemorrhage

*List provides examples of covered services. This list is not comprehensive.

In Georgia,

newborns whose mothers are covered by Medicaid at birth are automatically enrolled in Medicaid, so there is no lapse in health care coverage during the first year of a child's life.

Women are eligible for pregnancy Medicaid up to twelve months postpartum.

46%

of Georgia births are covered by Medicaid.⁴

78%

of pregnant women enrolled in Georgia Medicaid receive prenatal care within the first trimester.⁵

Medicaid & PeachCare Cover Children's Doctor's Appointments, Screenings, and Treatment for Illness and Injury

For babies and toddlers, Medicaid and PeachCare can cover*:

- Well-child visits and immunizations
- Screenings for hearing, vision, developmental delays, autism, lead exposure, and more
- Treatment for viral and bacterial infections, such as the flu, RSV, strep, and norovirus
- Coverage for hospital stays and urgent care for life-threatening illnesses or injuries
- Ongoing care for chronic conditions such as childhood cancer, asthma, and more

*List provides examples of covered services. This list is not comprehensive.

Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are often more susceptible to illness, experiencing between seven and eight infections per year, on average, and **making reliable access to health care even more critical during this period.**⁶

The American Academy of Pediatrics **recommends at least 13 routine visits during early childhood.** Screenings during this period help identify hearing or vision loss, developmental delays, lead exposure, and other potential health issues.⁷

Medicaid and PeachCare provide children with coverage for preventative services and medically necessary screening, assessment, and treatment. **Preventative services can protect children from developing more serious conditions.**⁸

Quickly administered treatment can prevent more extensive and costly treatment later on. **Early treatment can save a child's life.**



Medicaid & PeachCare Cover Early Intervention and Ongoing Care for Young Children with Disabilities

For young children with complex medical needs, disabilities, and developmental delays, Medicaid and PeachCare can cover*:

- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy
- Behavioral support
- Wheelchairs, specialized car seats, and other equipment
- Skilled nursing and in-home care that allows young children with disabilities and/or complex medical needs to stay with their families
- Surgeries and hospital stays

**List provides examples of covered services. This list is not comprehensive.*

Ongoing therapeutic care can change the trajectory of a child's life. Early screening and intervention can ameliorate the need for more intensive and costly treatment later.

Medicaid and PeachCare play key roles in supporting programs such as Babies Can't Wait, Children's Medical Services, and Early Hearing Detection and Intervention. These programs provide ongoing support to children with complex medical needs, developmental delays, hearing loss, and other disabilities.

Some children with disabilities, regardless of their family's income, qualify for a Medicaid waiver that provides in-home care to keep them at home with their families rather than in an institution. Without Medicaid, the cost of care for these children would be prohibitively high, even for middle- and high-income families.



Medicaid covers

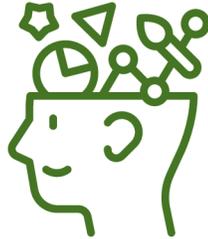
48%

of Georgia's children with special health care needs.⁹

Medicaid & PeachCare coverage in pregnancy and early childhood has long-term benefits for children, families, and Georgia's economy.



Access to Medicaid during pregnancy and early childhood leads to **longer, healthier lives, including reduced rates of obesity, hospitalization, high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease.**¹⁰



Increased access to Medicaid during childhood has been shown to **improve educational outcomes**, from elementary school to college.¹¹



Childhood health care coverage protects families from economic hardship by **decreasing the probability of medical debt.**¹²



The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the **increase in wages earned and taxes paid** by adults who received Medicaid as children **could offset half or more of the program's initial costs.**¹³

Medicaid and PeachCare play outsized roles in the health and well-being of new moms, newborns, and young children. These programs provide access to **life-saving treatments and life-changing therapies for young children** with complex medical conditions, developmental delays, and disabilities. **Cuts or significant changes to Medicaid and PeachCare funding would be devastating to Georgia's children, families, health care workforce, and economy.**

