

GA Child Welfare Organizations

Prevent Child Abuse

Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia is an independent, statewide, non-profit organization. Established in 1984, PCA Georgia is the state's only non-profit agency that focuses exclusively on the prevention of all forms of child abuse and neglect. This includes raising awareness and providing leadership for the prevention of the most secretive type of abuse--child sexual abuse. PCA Georgia helps all Georgia's citizens to find the information and assistance that they need to take action in their everyday lives that will create safer environments for their children and the children in their communities.

Partially supported by the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant Program (CBCAP) through the Governor's Office of Children and Families.

The PCA Georgia helpline is supported by a grant from the Arthur M. Blank Family foundation.

PCA Georgia provides statewide direction to promote healthy children and develop strong families through:

- Prevention Network – Building a statewide network of individuals, families, agencies, and communities dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect in all its forms.
- Public Awareness – Increasing public awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention through training and education, information dissemination, and statewide events.
- Prevention Programs – Encouraging the development and implementation of innovative prevention programs using research-based models.
- Research – Conducting and disseminating academic and community-based research to guide the development of policies, programs and services which will enhance the health and well-being of Georgia's children and their families.
- Advocacy Activities – Informing public policy, programs, and practices that strengthen families and protect children by regularly imparting information regarding child abuse prevention research, initiatives, legislation, and campaigns.

Services offered:

- Free Online Mandated Reporter Training (Contains updated information about how to report and who is considered mandated reporter under GA code)
- Webinars on various topics related to child welfare
- Statewide information and referral line offering resources and supports for parents, children, and professionals M-F 8am - 6pm 1-800- CHILDREN (244 - 5373)

Trainings Offered:

- Online Mandated Reporter Training through Prosolutions
- Webinars on various topics related to child welfare
 - Prevention and Considerations for Children with Special Needs – done in partnership

- with ChildKind Inc.
- Early Neglect and the Brain: Promoting Healthy Development
- Parent Café: Core Elements

Strengthening Families Georgia

Strengthening Families Georgia (SFG) represents a multi-disciplinary partnership of nearly 50 national, state and local, and public and private organizations dedicated to embedding five research-based Protective Factors into services and supports for children and their families. The Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC), state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), administers SFG and chairs the SFG Leadership Team and Partnership.

SFG is funded by the Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF) through the Federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant Program.

The Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC)

The Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC) is a professional association for professionals interested in the healthy development and education of young children ages 0 – 8 in Georgia. GAYC is the Georgia affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Southern Early Childhood Association.

Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC) is an independent, non-profit organization created in 1966. The mission of the Georgia Association on Young Children is to encourage and support healthy development in young children by working with others (1) to increase public awareness of the importance of early childhood education, and (2) to improve the quality of programs for young children through learning opportunities for early childhood educators.

Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children

Since 1995, The Supreme Court's Committee on Justice for Children has administered the Court Improvement Project to develop and implement a data driven plan for continuous improvement in juvenile dependency cases. Under the direction of the Advisory Committee, Staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts collects and analyzes data, create reports and provide trainings for juvenile court stakeholders. The Committee on Justice for Children (J4C) is staffed by the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts.

Funded by the Federal Court Improvement Project (CIP) Grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children and Families, Children's Bureau.

- Training for attorneys in child welfare cases.
- Working to improve legal representation in juvenile court cases.

- Works with Juvenile court judges and others involved in court process to improve the court process.
- Advocating for legislative changes to improve placement stability.
- Working with DFCS to assist in achieving permanency for children who have been in foster care for an extended amount of time.
- Working to improve Georgia's ICPC process
- Improving knowledge on the law regarding foster parent notice and opportunity to be heard
- Working with the courts to improve IV-E reimbursement

Casey Family Programs

We support the efforts of child welfare systems and American Indian tribes to develop practices and policies best suited to address the unique needs of the children and families they serve and to share the knowledge we gain from this work with others. We strive to enhance the ability of child welfare systems to partner with families, communities, policymakers, courts and other public and private stakeholders to safely reduce the need for foster care and to create an integrated and effective response that improves the outcomes and well-being of children.

- We offer ongoing strategic consultation at no cost to child welfare systems and tribes in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
- We provide essential research services to ensure that critical decisions are data-driven and based on evidence.
- We nurture system improvements in practice and policy and work to ensure that these improvements will endure over time.
- We support the growth of Communities of Hope to allow for collaborative support of children and families.

Child and Family Services

- We work directly with children and families to develop and demonstrate effective, practical solutions for safely reducing the need for foster care, improving well-being, and securing safe and lifelong families for every single child in our care.
- We provide a broad range of community-based services to more than 1,100 children, youth, young adults and families, including high-quality foster care and other programs that create opportunities for them to reach their full potential. We share the knowledge we gain from this experience with child welfare systems, policy makers, private providers and others.
- We develop, evaluate and refine effective, data-driven child welfare practices and policies – and demonstrate what works.
- We share the knowledge of what we have learned with state, tribal and county child welfare systems, private providers and community partners.

- We operate nine field offices in five states that provide direct services to urban, suburban and rural communities.
- We support and share the efforts of community-based and faith-based and other organizations to effectively partner with child welfare systems.

Public Policy

- We provide nonpartisan information, resources and education to support federal, state and tribal policymakers in safely reducing the need for foster care and improving outcomes for children and families.
- In particular, we advocate for policies that allow child welfare systems to make smart, effective investments so more children have the opportunity to grow up in safe, stable and supportive families.
- We support the development of shared vision of change by public, private and community-based organizations and an integrated approach for achieving it.
- We provide comprehensive, nonpartisan child welfare information and education driven by data, supported by research and based on evidence of what works best.
- We constantly collaborate with a broad range of partners to collectively extend the depth and reach of our public policy work with executive, judicial and legislative branches of federal, state and local governments.
- We promote promising practices and underlying policies that improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families.
- We share what we have learned with public child welfare systems, private providers and other community partners across the nation to inform policy.

Resources

- Casey Family Programs offers ongoing strategic consultation, technical assistance, data analysis and independent research and evaluation at no cost to child welfare systems, policymakers, courts and tribes across America to support long-lasting improvements that safely reduce the need for foster care.

Barton Child Law and Policy Center

The Barton Center promotes and protects the legal rights and interests of children involved with the juvenile court, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems; inspires excellence among professionals; and prepares emerging practitioners for successful and rewarding child advocacy careers. The center accomplishes its goals through the provision of holistic legal representation to youth, public policy and legislative advocacy, community outreach, and professional education.

- Act as a catalyst for improvements in the juvenile court and child protection systems in Georgia;
- Advocate a long-range systematic approach to public policy designed for the benefit of the children affected;
- Provide research-based information about best practices and whether policies and laws

affecting children have their intended effect;

- Represent children and youth in juvenile court proceedings and related administrative proceedings;
- Promote the practice of children's law as a specialized area requiring specialized knowledge and skills.
- The Barton Center is a multi-disciplinary law office where students, faculty, and community partners work together to improve outcomes for court-involved children through the following activities.
- We train the next generation of child advocacy professionals in an interdisciplinary setting.
- The program operates as a student clinic in which law and other graduate students conduct research; write articles, policy papers, and other informational materials; analyze and draft legislation and policy directives; and participate in reform initiatives.
- Center faculty teach courses at the law school and classes throughout Emory University.
- The Emory Summer Child Advocacy Program brings students from across the country to engage in child advocacy work throughout Georgia.
- Faculty and students provide a limited amount of legal representation for juvenile court child clients.
- We serve the community by striving to improve the way Georgia cares for abused and court-involved children and by raising awareness about these children.
- Center faculty, staff, and students teach at local, state, and national conferences for lawyers, foster parents, judges, social workers, probation officers, community volunteers, and others.
- The Center monitors press coverage of children's issues and serves as a resource to the press and public.
- The Center participates in the legislative process, distributes a wide range of publications, testifies at public forums, and advises Georgia's executive, legislative, and judicial branches and nonprofit organizations on the effects that proposed legislation, policies, or regulations will have on children.
- The Center collaborates with national and local organizations in support of important issues affecting children.
- We use and promote technology to improve the way child-serving systems function and to raise awareness about child abuse, foster care, adoption, and juvenile justice.
- A main facet of the Center's research-based approach is operating as a statewide resource through electronic media.
- Center publications and data analysis are made available through our web site.
- The Center encourages public and private organizations to use technology that will lead to better outcomes for children.
- We use research and data analysis to promote accountability in systems that serve children.
- The Center, in partnership with other organizations, analyzes data and provides feedback to courts and child-serving agencies about compliance with policy and statutory requirements.
- The Center promotes individual and system compliance with procedural and substantive safeguards that help ensure decisions about children are informed, accurate, and appropriate.

- Center faculty, staff, and students actively participate in local, state, and national work groups, commissions, reform efforts, and other endeavors to ensure that federal and state laws reflect best practices for children.

The Center uses research, publishing, advocacy, education, litigation, and other tools to advance the rights and well-being of court-involved and abused and neglected children.

Trainings offered:

- Monthly Child Welfare Legal Academy

JUSTGeorgia

JUSTGeorgia is a statewide juvenile justice coalition of community organizations and individuals advocating for change to Georgia's juvenile code and the underlying social service systems to better serve Georgia's children and promote safer communities. The three lead partners of this statewide initiative are the Barton Center, Georgia Appleseed, and Voices for Georgia's Children.

- Enact a new Juvenile Code that reflects best practices and the latest research and scientific findings;
- Identify and change policies in the underlying social service systems to better serve Georgia's children, prevent detention, and promote safer communities.
- Create a long term coalition that will advocate, monitor, and report on the conditions, laws, and policies that affect the justice and safety of Georgia's young people.

For the past six years, the JUSTGeorgia Coalition agenda has centered on a comprehensive revision of the state's juvenile code. The coalition will stay connected to implementation of this new law and work for continued improvement in issues affected court-involved youth in Georgia.

The lead partners of JUSTGeorgia are Georgia Appleseed, The Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic of the Emory University School of Law, and Voices for Georgia's Children. JUSTGeorgia was launched by philanthropic funding.

Georgia Appleseed

Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice joined the national Appleseed network of non-profit, non-partisan, public interest law centers in November, 2005 and on July 1, 2007, became an independent affiliate. Georgia Appleseed connects top private practice lawyers, corporate counsel, law schools, civic leaders, and other professionals throughout Georgia to tackle difficult social problems at their root causes. The experience, expertise, and influence of pro bono volunteers and policy experts throughout the network give Georgia Appleseed additional leverage and power to be an effective agent of change. Volunteer educators, public accountants, economists, and other business and civic leaders work on Georgia Appleseed projects to build the case for a more just Georgia, typically through the publication of well-researched reports with a compelling call for change. Georgia Appleseed seeks a Georgia where the voices of the poor, the children and the marginalized are heard and where injustices that no one should endure are resolved.

- Georgia Appleseed makes change happen through legal advocacy,
- Community engagement
- Effective policy initiatives based on the findings and recommendations the volunteers themselves have identified through their research and investigation.
- The Mission of Georgia Appleseed is to increase justice in Georgia through law and policy reform.
- Effective Student Discipline: Keeping Kids in Class ("ESD"): Using Georgia Department of Education (DOE) data acquired pursuant to a confidentiality agreement and the results of an extensive stakeholder interview process, Georgia Appleseed informs local communities about student discipline outcomes and their impact on the school to prison pipeline.
- ESD: PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Support): Georgia Appleseed is advocating for expanded use of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) school climate change framework as an effective alternative to exclusionary discipline.
- ESD: Model Student Code of Conduct: Georgia Appleseed seeks to initiate a review and revision of the state model student code of conduct to assure that it is aligned with current best practices with regard to student discipline and is consistent with PBIS.
- ESD: Innovative Alternatives to Exclusionary Student Discipline: This project evaluates options for innovative alternatives and the resources needed to implement them in Georgia K-12 public schools. Some Georgia public schools have already adopted alternative discipline practices, offering promising models that keep kids in class and help transform the school-to-prison pipeline into a path from school-to-success.
- ESD: Keeping Kids in Class Toolkit: This handy Toolkit located on the Georgia Appleseed website is brimming with information, data and ideas to help parents, local community leaders, and others committed to student success to work together with principals and teachers to help achieve this goal.
- Heir Property Project: Georgia Appleseed seeks to incubate a legal clinic (that will ultimately be independent) to provide low and moderate income families, including many seniors, with legal assistance to resolve heir property and related issues.
- Student Tribunal Project: This project assesses the fairness of the administrative hearing used when students and their parents seek review of proposed school discipline involving out of school suspensions of greater than 10 days.
- Young Professionals Council: Student Tribunal Project: The Georgia Appleseed Young Professionals Council has created a lawyer training manual and provides training to expand the pool of lawyers available to represent K-12 public school students in disciplinary hearings.
- Educational Stability for Children in Care: 5% of foster children end up homeless and 25% of male foster kids end up in prison. Only 3% graduate from college. In partnership with Families First, a nonprofit with a long history of seeking sustainable solutions for children and their families, this project seeks to enhance 'education stability' to Children in Care and improve educational focus and outcomes. Key activities include monitoring implementation of recent policy changes at the state level and creating an Education Advocates Program to assist individual foster children achieve educational stability and success.

- **Tax Credit for Funding Private School Scholarships:** The project evaluates issues related to provisions of Georgia law that allow state income tax credits for contributions to student scholarship organizations which use these contributions to fund scholarships to private schools.
- **Barriers to Re-Entry:** Adults convicted of a crime and children adjudicated delinquent face a number of barriers to re-entering society following release, some of which involve law or policies that, for example, limit access to social services. Georgia Appleseed seeks to examine this issue in Georgia and collaborate with other stakeholders to seek ways to reduce recidivism.
- **Incapacitated Elders:** Georgia Appleseed is working with the probate courts in Georgia to assess the effectiveness of a state law designed to create temporary medical guardians to assist incapacitated elders, who have outlived relatives and close friends, to make key medical and end of life decisions.
- **Forensic Patients:** The "forensic units" of several of Georgia's state hospitals house individuals who have been accused of a crime but who have been determined to be nonrestorably incompetent to stand trial. In partnership with Atlanta Legal Aid, this project focuses on whether these persons are being maintained in state custody in accordance with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- **Death Penalty Economic Impact Assessment:** This project seeks to carry out an objective fact-based analysis of the economic impact of the death penalty in Georgia. Among the issues at stake are the funding implications for the state's overall indigent defense program.

JUSTGeorgia is a partnership of Georgia Appleseed and two other major child advocacy groups. It is now focused on assisting in the effective implementation of the revised Georgia Juvenile Code, which became effective on January 1, 2014 following lengthy advocacy by the JUSTGeorgia partnership.

Voices for Georgia's Children

Established in 2003, Voices for Georgia's Children is a nonprofit child policy and advocacy organization that envisions a Georgia where children are safe, healthy, educated, employable, and connected to their family and community. Our mission is to be a powerful, unifying voice for a public agenda that ensures the well-being of all of Georgia's children.

- Provide the necessary research-based information, measures, collective voice and proposed legislation to help guide decision makers in the right direction.

Developed a long-term, comprehensive policy agenda focused on early childhood, child health and transitioning youth to foster change in five measures of child well being.

- **Early Childhood.** We propose a public agenda for the state that supports young children and their families with a focus on family supports, good health, and early care and learning.
- **Child Health.** We also are working to improve the amount and quality of child health data from the state, which help guide state and community leaders in improving the physical, oral and mental health of children.

Transitioning Youth. Voices is committed to ensuring successful transitions for all of Georgia's children – especially those in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; failing or not attending school; and lacking a supportive family environment. Our solutions encompass four important areas: Strong families, supportive communities, school strategies focused on vulnerable youth, and collaborative and effective government.

- We have created a long-term policy agenda for children. We use this policy framework to work closely with legislators, agency staff, and state and community leaders to make sure children are a priority for the state.
- We are expanding and educating leadership for children. Browse our Research & Publications webpage for fact sheets, reports and other publications from Voices and the child advocacy community.
- We are building the public will to improve child well being. Visit our Take Action webpage to learn how you too can join our cause.

In addition, through our JUSTGeorgia coalition, we are working with other advocates, and state and community leaders to improve how children are treated under the law and in the courts. A new juvenile code will lead to better outcomes for court-involved children who are abused, neglected, or delinquent.

Voices is an independent, nonpartisan organization affiliated with Voices for America's Children. In addition, we lead several collaborative groups – who help to expand our advocacy – including the Georgia Birth to Five Coalition, the Georgia Children's Advocacy Network (GA-CAN) and the JUSTGeorgia coalition. We invite you to explore our website to learn more about them, our child policy issues and how you can join our cause. Learn more about our Zero to Five Policy Framework in our publication, *Compounding Interest*.

Georgia Birth to Five Coalition (GA Birth to 5)

The Georgia Birth to Five Coalition (GA Birth to 5) is a statewide advocacy group composed of organizations and individuals who work together to improve public policies that impact early childhood development, education and care – or policies that affect children from birth to age five.

The coalition educates the public on the importance of investing in children, and builds public will to support the enactment and implementation of policies and initiatives that benefit all of Georgia's children. In doing so, GA Birth to 5 highlights the critical nature of children's earliest years; supports the central role of parents in children's healthy development; promotes high quality environments and services; and engages businesses, government and the nonprofit, faith and civic sectors to take leadership on behalf of young children and their families.

Work Groups

GA Birth to 5's work is organized into three work groups: Early Care and Education; Healthy Births, Newborns and Young Children; and Home Visiting. Check back soon for information on all of our work

Child Advocate's Office

To protect the children of the State of Georgia and to assist and restore the security of children whose well-being is threatened by providing independent oversight of persons, organizations, and agencies responsible for providing services to or caring for children who are victims of child abuse and neglect or whose domestic situation requires intervention by the state. O.C.G.A. § 15-11-740 (b)

Our Mission includes identifying patterns of treatment and service for children and making recommendations for necessary policy implications, legislative changes and systemic improvements.

Independent oversight of child welfare agencies of cases in which DFCS has had involvement in the last 5 years.

- Independent Oversight is not limited to DFCS but is limited to cases that involve a child who has received protective services from DFCS, for whom DFCS has an open case file, or who has been, or whose siblings, parents, or other caretakers have been, the subject of a report to DFCS within the previous five years. O.C.G.A. § 15-11-741(3)
- OCA Investigators receive and investigate all incoming complaints and seek the resolution or referral of complaints made by or on behalf of children concerning any act, omission to act, practice, policy, or procedure of an agency or any contractor or agent thereof that may adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of the children. O.C.G.A. § 15-11-743
- The OCA Director oversees the complaint process to ensure sound resolution and policy compliance, and identify needed systemic change.

The Protocol (f/k/a The Child Abuse Protocol) - O.C.G.A. §19-15-2OCA maintains an updated statewide Model Protocol (f/k/a Child Abuse Protocol) to assist Protocol Committees in developing or updating their local Protocols.

- Each County is required by law to establish a Protocol for the investigation and prosecution of alleged cases of child abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. The chief superior court judge of the circuit in which the county is located establishes the Protocol Committee which develops the local Protocol.
- OCA is available to provide training to Protocol Committee members on developing or updating their local Protocol, preparing the annual report and complying with other mandated duties.
- The 2014 statewide Model Protocol can be found on the website under the Protocols and Resources tab.

Guardian ad Litem Training

- OCA is responsible for administering or approving guardian ad litem training which is required before a person can be appointed as a guardian ad litem in dependency cases in Juvenile Court. OCGA § 15-11-104(f)

(Guardian Ad Litem training opportunities can be found on the website under the Training tab.)

Trainings:

- Child Abuse Protocol Training
- Forensic Interviewing of Children Training – through the Anna Crawford Children’s Center
- Guardian ad Litem Training – Provides updated information on where to locate GAL training with approved curriculum
- Link to information about the CASA program and training program.
- Provides links to other assorted trainings, conferences, etc.
- Free Online Mandated Reporter Training – all 3 trainings available (Contains updated information about how to report and who is considered mandated reporter under GA code)
* Through ProSolutions sponsored by GOCHF*

Links to all trainings through ProSolutions sponsored by GOCHF – Safe Sleep, Block Play as a Creative Learning Strategy, Conducting Purposeful visits with Teens, Conducting Purposeful visits with Toddlers and Preschoolers, and Conducting Purposeful visits with Elementary School Children

Interfaith Children's Movement

The Interfaith Children's Movement is a grassroots, advocacy movement dedicated to improving the well-being of children in Georgia. It was formed in 2001 as an intentional association of individuals and communities of faith from all religious traditions. The Interfaith Children’s Movement strives to be a voice for all of Georgia's children, but especially the poor and marginalized whose voices are often unheard. Our goal is to end the injustices to children that we would not endure ourselves; to use the structure of faith communities to bring these injustices to public awareness; to bring faith communities to the service of children; and to use the voice of the collective faith community to inspire the legislature to make changes that are good for children.

Purpose:

- Education - informing and training faith communities and others on what we know about children's issues.
- Advocacy - appealing to those who can make a difference (faith communities, families, community coalitions, legislators, corporations, etc.)
- Mobilization - motivating faith communities to act -- speak up for and service the needs of children.
- Networking - connecting faith communities and individuals to information and service programs that can help children and families.
- Information Resourcing - providing access to materials, data and/or expertise through advocacy organizers, agencies or other means to assist with the maintenance and development of programs and initiatives for children.

ICM works closely with Georgia’s policy-oriented child advocacy organizations – Voices for Georgia’s

Children - The Barton Clinic at Emory University - Georgia Appleseed - JUSTGeorgia Coalition (working to enact a new Juvenile Code) - Prevent Child Abuse Georgia - A Future Not a Past (child prostitution prevention).

Governor's office of Family and Children

To reach, support, and empower communities to serve Georgia's children and families. The Governor's Office for Children and Families has been designated as the lead agency in the State of Georgia for child abuse and neglect prevention. The Prevention and Family Support Division works in partnership with community-based organizations committed to reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect by targeting at-risk families with evidence-based prevention and early intervention techniques to ensure positive outcomes for children and families. State and federal funding provides families throughout Georgia with services such as parenting courses, screening and identification tools, training opportunities, high-quality home visitation and primary, secondary, and tertiary maltreatment prevention that helps local communities promote the overall health and well-being of Georgia's children, youth and families.

- Administer state and federal funds in a fiscally responsible manner for the purpose of meeting the needs of children from birth through adolescence.
- Build capacity through statewide training; interagency coordination and community forums.
- Identify statewide needs and monitors program outcomes through site visits; state assessment activities; community partnerships; and interagency collaborations.
- Serve as fiscal stewards of federal child abuse and prevention funds
- Develop, manage, and monitor Georgia's statewide Child Abuse and Prevention Plan and the Georgia State Plan for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
- Provide training and technical assistance to community partners to build capacity and serve as statewide experts on child abuse and neglect issues

Expanding opportunities through building community capacity in order to help children and families live healthy, productive lives

Empowering communities through the process of identifying needs, finding solutions and implementing actions to solve them

Identifying suitable performance measures in advance for progress toward achieving program success

Supporting communities that are organized and mobilized to be able to achieve change

Utilizing state and federal resources to ensure a sustainable impact on communities

The GOFC-CSEC Task Force is a work group administered through the GOFC with a goal to protect children and youth from perpetrators and systems of commercial sexual exploitation and ensures recovery of victims so that they are ready for life, college, and work. The GOFC CSEC Task Force work groups develop and implement projects to address gaps in services relating to the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Georgia. It is the long term goal of the GOFC CSEC Task Force that successful projects created and implemented through the workgroups will eventually be transitioned into

permanent programs to address the needs and gaps in services for victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The Georgia Children's Cabinet consists of all state agency heads that work with child populations as well as select community, philanthropic, education, and business stakeholders. This single group is the place where state and community programs are aligned and recommendations for improving delivery of care to children are made to inform state decision making. The group's mission is to support a sustainable and comprehensive system of education and care to better serve children and families in a more coordinated and efficient manner.

Georgia Children's Cabinet coordinates policies and resources to improve outcomes for children and families. The Cabinet provides unique leadership on child welfare and juvenile justice issues in Georgia by identifying state strategic priorities, then developing initiatives in response.

Goals

- Elimination of gaps and duplication of services for children
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness of child welfare and juvenile justice resources
- Ensure that all children begin life healthy and remain mentally and physically well throughout their lives with access to appropriate primary care and early screening
- Ensure that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn and remain on a trajectory of success throughout their school-aged years

To enhance the work of organizations established to reduce family violence, the Family Violence Division at GOCF allocates funding to Georgia communities to provide primary, secondary, and tertiary services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Directed by state and federal law, the Division utilizes a strength-based approach to engage service providers, knowledgeable others, expert organizations, and sister agencies to develop a state response that promotes capacity building and community response.

- Provide state and federal funds to implement prevention and intervention strategies for the purpose of meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Promote statewide training and capacity building resources to improve quality, effectiveness, and capacity of domestic violence and sexual assault services.
- Raise community awareness and interagency coordination.

Juvenile justice research, state and federal law, and best-practice all support the premise that youth are fundamentally different than adults, in both their level of responsibility as well as their potential for rehabilitation.

To this end, the State of Georgia has established a juvenile justice system that is distinct from the adult criminal justice system and provides procedures that are unique to the treatment of juveniles.

Stakeholders that work with the youth and families involved with Georgia's juvenile justice system require ongoing support to meet the needs of this distinct population.

- Provides funding for programs that demonstrate a clear commitment to the accountability principles of restorative justice for youth;
- Strategizes to ensure that local communities are able to meet the needs of Georgia's youth and families
- Provides technical expertise to ensure compliance with federal and state laws concerning juvenile detention and confinement in order to secure funding for the state's juvenile crime reduction efforts

Recognizing the period of adolescence as particularly impactful on a child's life course trajectory, GOCF supports youth development programs through its Youth Development Division. Building critical thinking skills, prioritize school engagement and high school graduation, abstaining from sexual activity, and avoiding risky behaviors poise youth in Georgia to achieve their goals, preparing them to be successful adults. The trainings, curricula, and activities supported by GOCF's youth development programs serve as an ideal complement to the education and health needs of local middle and high school-aged children.

- To provide funding and leadership to streamline a collective impact approach to CSEC from the micro to macro levels.
- To create and embed high-quality infrastructures that promotes safe and positive activities for all children in out-of school programs.
- Implement prevention strategies to reduce teen sexual activity through administration of federal and state funds for youth development and abstinence education programming.

The Youth Development Division of the Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF) sponsors several trainings and events throughout the year that may be beneficial for youth, grantees, and other service providers. See below for information and registration for these trainings.

The Prevention and Family Support Division of the Governor's Office for Children and Families (GOCF) sponsors several trainings and events throughout the year that may be beneficial for service providers.

Trainings:

- The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds (Alliance) is pleased to make available an online training to support implementation of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework in multiple settings. The curriculum consists of seven courses: the introductory course, a course focused on each protective factor (each exploring one or two program strategies) and a final review and reflection course that helps the user move from knowledge to action.
- GOCF Youth Development Workshop – professional development workshops.
- Various online trainings through prosolutions including:
 - Creating Healthy Lifestyles: Balancing School-age Diets with Good Food Choices
 - Phonemic Awareness in Young Children: The Gateway to Reading Success
 - Social and Emotional Development of Preschoolers

- Mandated Reporters: Critical Links in Protecting Children in Georgia
- Mandated Reporting Requirements: A Track for Georgia Medical Professionals
- Child Abuse and Neglect: Mandated Reporting Requirements for Employees, Volunteers, and Contractors of Georgia Public Schools
- Safe Sleep for Georgia Babies
- Block Play as a Creative Learning Strategy
- Conducting Purposeful Visits with Toddlers and Preschoolers
- Conducting Purposeful Visits with Elementary School Children
- Conducting Purposeful Visits with Teens
- Bullying Basics: Recognizing Bullying Behaviors and Risk Factors
- The Basics of Effective Human Services Interviewing
- Techniques for Interviewing Challenging Clients

Georgia CASA

Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. develops and supports court-sanctioned, community-based affiliate programs that provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court dependency proceedings.

CASA volunteers serve as the eyes and ears of the court. They gather information from anyone who may be able to shed light on the child's situation. The CASA volunteer attends court proceedings and makes an independent recommendation to the judge about what is in the child's best interests -- bringing a sense of urgency to the child's needs. As a community partner in the child welfare system, a CASA volunteer increases a child's access to services, promotes safety, and advocates for timeliness and permanency for children involved in juvenile court proceedings. The CASA volunteer remains involved until the case is permanently resolved to keep the focus on the child.

Georgia Association of Counsel for Children GACC

GACC is a non-profit, membership association for attorneys who represent children and families in juvenile court proceedings. It is an affiliate of the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) and supports NACC's mission to strengthen delivery of legal services for children, enhance the quality of legal services affecting children, improve courts and agencies serving children, and advance the rights and interests of children.

- Provides training, education, and support for attorneys who represent or advocate for children and families in juvenile court proceedings.
- Collaborates with various agencies and organizations regarding child protection and well-being.
- Training offered on new juvenile dependency code and TPR provisions.

Georgia Cares

Georgia Cares (formerly Georgia Care Connection Office) is the single, statewide coordinating non-profit agency connecting services and treatment care for child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Georgia Cares serves any and all youth who have been victimized in the state of Georgia. We believe that youth can be restored to safety, health and wellbeing when they are recognized as victims of sexual abuse and supported with appropriate treatment. Our mission is to ensure that child sex trafficking victims receive quality care and services in the state of Georgia. It is our vision that child sex trafficking is one day eradicated, and survivors are restored and thriving with the help of trauma-informed treatment.

- Maintain a 24-hour hotline for victim service and response 404-602-0068
- Ensure placement in emergency beds and access to forensic interviews
- Employ licensed social workers who conduct assessments to determine if a child is exploited or at-risk
- In collaboration with Department of Family and Children Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the child's family, we determine the best placement for a child
- Ensure that costs for recovery and treatment are provided for each child
- Provide continual care coordination, follow-up, and evaluation to ensure each child and their family recovers and thrives
- Train communities and professionals on warning signs and resources

KIDS COUNT

Georgia KIDS COUNT, a project of Georgia Family Connection Partnership, compiles current, reliable data on child well-being in each of our state's 159 counties. We seek to enrich local and state discussions concerning ways to offer Georgia's children a better future. Our vision is that Georgia's children will be healthy; ready to start and perform better in school; live in stable, self-sufficient families and in strong communities.

Georgia KIDS COUNT reports year-to-year data highlights, trends, and disparities on child well-being to inform planning, budget, and policy decisions regarding priorities, services, and resources that impact children, families, and communities in our state. Georgia tracks 47 indicators of child well-being in five result areas that support our vision 1. Healthy Children, 2. Children ready to start school, 3. Children succeeding in school, 4. Stable, self-sufficient families, 5. Strong communities

KIDS COUNT is a state and national effort funded by Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the status of children. Georgia Family Connection Partnership is the state's designated KIDS COUNT grantee.

Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children through CHOA

Children Healthcare of Atlanta's Stephanie B. Blank Center for Safe and Health Children provides forensic medical evaluations and interviews, behavioral health assessments and counseling, multidisciplinary team review and case tracking, and research and collaborative partnerships. In addition to clinical services, the Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children offers ongoing training, education and consultation. We work with different groups to provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach when investigating child abuse reports with Georgia authorities.

The Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children offers services including:

- A child-friendly environment
- A private waiting area
- Personalized, age-appropriate exam education and preparation
- A comprehensive medical history and examination conducted in a comfortable environment by a forensic physician or nurse practitioner
- Colposcopic exams for detailed photographic documentation
- Recorded forensic interviews Second-opinion consultations
- Expert witness testimony
- Behavioral health assessments and counseling
- Referrals for counseling Professional training
- Community education and prevention programs
- Multidisciplinary team meetings for case coordination

Offer a wide range of trainings via conferences and webinars including;

- Stewards of Children: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Trainings
- Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse in Georgia: Your role in recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect
- Using a Victim-/Survivor-Centered Approach When Working with Trafficked Youth