

A Vision for Child and Family Well-Being

All Georgia's children and families have equitable opportunities to grow and thrive in safe, stable, connected, and nurturing communities where they live, learn, work, and play.



The Plan Then & Now

Both the original state plan developed in 1993, and the new 2020 plan aim to prevent child abuse and neglect at the individual, community, and societal level by strengthening family and child well-being. The updated plan aims to further address inequities, social determinants of health, and adverse childhood experiences.

Plan Development

Through 25 listening sessions in 14 regions across the state and input from over 800 survey respondents, the voices of Georgia's parents, caregivers, human services providers, civic, business, and faith leaders were included in the plan.

Moving Forward

The six objectives in the plan are intended to help child- and family-serving organizations, community members, families, and businesses create nurturing environments for healthy families. Fourteen regional plans will be adapted at the local level. Strategies will be prioritized locally based on child well-being data, community needs and existing efforts.

Georgia's Objectives for Prevention are to Increase:



- Family Economic Stability
- Family Resilience
- Family Mental Health
- Family Physical Health
- Family Access to Early Childhood Care and Education
- Community Knowledge and Awareness of the Societal Factors that Contribute to Child Abuse and Neglect and the Capacity to Prevent it

Why Does Georgia Need a State Plan?

- Child abuse and neglect remain a major public health problem — and the **public's** health problem. It is not caused by a single factor but by multiple factors related to the individual, family, community, and society at large. Adverse community environments, such as lack of affordable and safe housing, community violence, systemic discrimination, and limited opportunities for social and economic mobility, create additional conditions for vulnerability to child abuse or neglect.
- For a goal as complex as the prevention of child abuse and neglect, well-planned broad-based strategies that apply to Georgia's entire child and family well-being system is essential. A state child abuse prevention plan is a blueprint for action.
- Child abuse and neglect are preventable! We believe a state prevention plan will focus resources on effective approaches to increasing safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for all children and families.

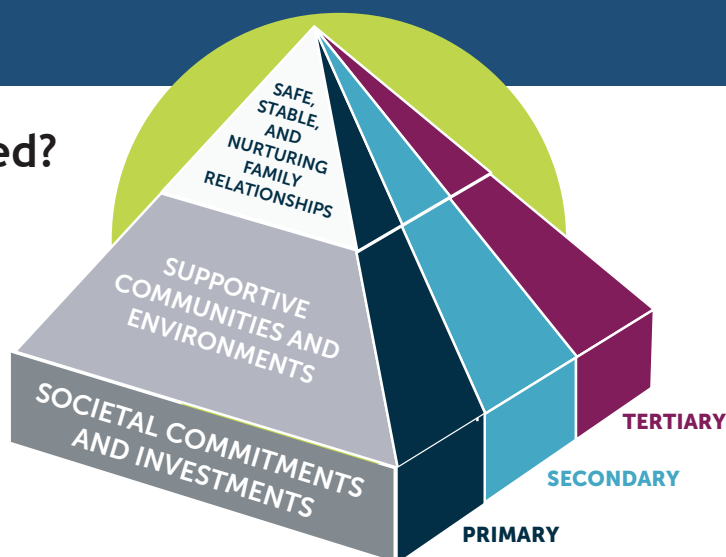
Georgia ranks 1st in the nation for small businesses, but 38th for child well-being.

Prevention Strategies

What Kinds of Programs Do We Need?

Comprehensive approaches to prevent child abuse and neglect are made up of a continuum of services that:

- Occur before, during, or after abuse happens
- Services offered to different populations and phases of the family cycle
- Address the [individual, community, and society at large](#)



Primary prevention

Population-based activities designed to promote the general well-being of children and families, also known as universal prevention. Examples include a statewide investment in programs such as affordable, quality childcare at the societal level or a program available to all families, regardless of demographics or income.

Secondary prevention

Programs designed to help identify families who are at high risk for abuse. Certain established risk factors for abuse or neglect are often used to determine eligibility for these programs, practices, or services. An example of a highly impactful secondary prevention program at the family level is evidence-based home visiting. At the Supportive Communities and Environments level of the pyramid, an example of secondary prevention is Family Resource Centers.

Tertiary prevention

Services provided after abuse or neglect occurs, designed to prevent the recurrence and mitigate the impact of abuse. For example, substance abuse treatment for parents who have been referred to DFCS, or at the societal level, the federal government's Family First Prevention Services Act, aimed at preventing children from entering into foster care through a variety of family support programs.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

A comprehensive agenda for child abuse and neglect prevention in Georgia to achieve our collective vision for child and family well-being **is impossible without you**. Consider what you can do to help to reach the goals of the state plan to create safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for the families and children of Georgia. Contact gadfcs.prevention@dhs.ga.gov or PreventChildAbuseGA@gsu.edu to volunteer to contribute to your local workgroup's plan.

Download and read the plan by visiting TinyURL.com/GACANPP

Visit www.belongingforhope.org/roles to learn about actions you can take to make your community stronger and a place where everyone can thrive!

