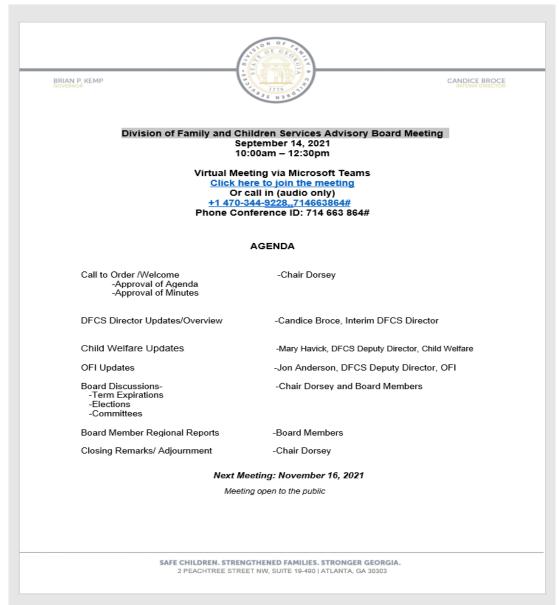


State Advisory Board Meeting September 14, 2021



Approval of September 14, 2021 agenda



Approval of July 13, 2021 meeting minutes



Introducing Candice Broce, Interim Director



NEWHIRES

Division Operations

2021 State of Hope Sites Announced!

Greetings Hope Givers,

The Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is excited to announce that the fourth State of Hope (SoH) application round has concluded. After a robust submission season, **20** local community organizations have been selected to receive seed funding and support. Winning projects are family-centered systems that will allow DFCS to connect, equip, and nurture these diverse community collaborators:

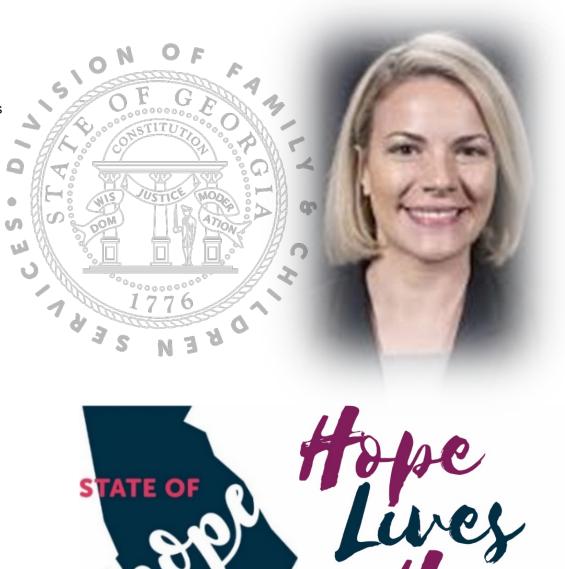
- The Children's Haven Region 1
- Catalyst Coalition Ebook Buddy Region 1
- Hispanic Alliance of GA Region 2
- Polk Family Connection Region 3
- Your Haven Region 3
- CIS Georgia Henry County Region 4
- Family Connections/CIS Athens Region 5
- Georgia Kinship Project Region 6
- Rise Augusta DBA CIS Augusta Region 7
- Enrichment Services Program Region 8
- South Georgia Starz Academy Region 10
- Atlanta Angels Region 13
- MUST Ministries Region 13
- Caring for Others Region 14
- Carrie's Closet Region 14
- Inspired by Grace Region 14
- The STEAM Generation Region 14
- Dublin City Board of Education Region 9
- Recovery Unlimited Region 3
- YouthSpark Inc. Region 10

DFCS looks forward to supporting these groups with their SoH efforts that focus on one or more of the four identified opportunities for hope: **Education**, **being/becoming Trauma-Informed**, **Quality Caregiving and Economic Self-Sufficiency**. These priority areas will have the greatest impact on keeping children safe, strengthening families and empowering communities.

For more information or to be added to the SoH mailing list, contact us at StateofHope@dhs.ga.gov.

In Hope,

Candice Broce
Interim Division Director



BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE ♣ A STATE OF HOPE ≈

SAFE CHILDREN. STRENGTHENED FAMILIES. STRONGER GEORGIA.





SEPTEMBER



RECOVERY MONTH 2021

RECOVERY IS FOR EVERYONE:

Every Person
Every Family
Every Community

WWW.NATIONALRECOVERYMONTH.ORG

Questions?

Interim Division Director <u>Candice.Broce1@dhs.ga.gov</u> Chief of Staff <u>Craig.Foster@dhs.ga.gov</u>

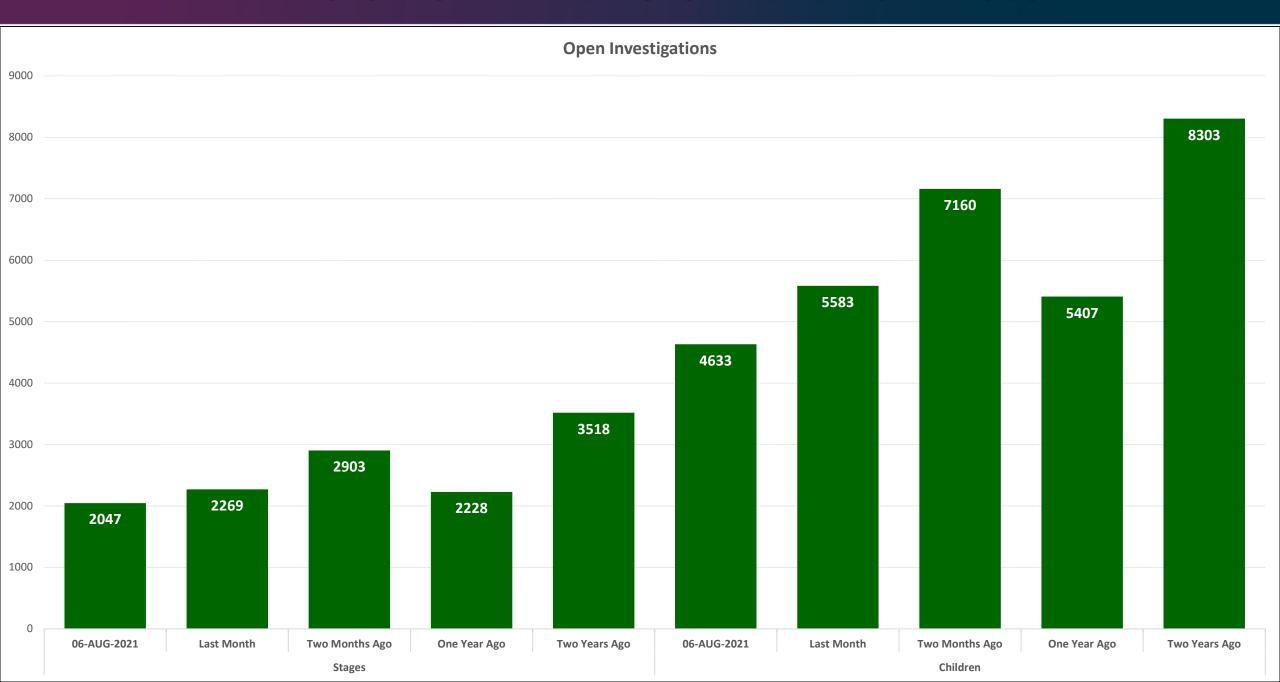


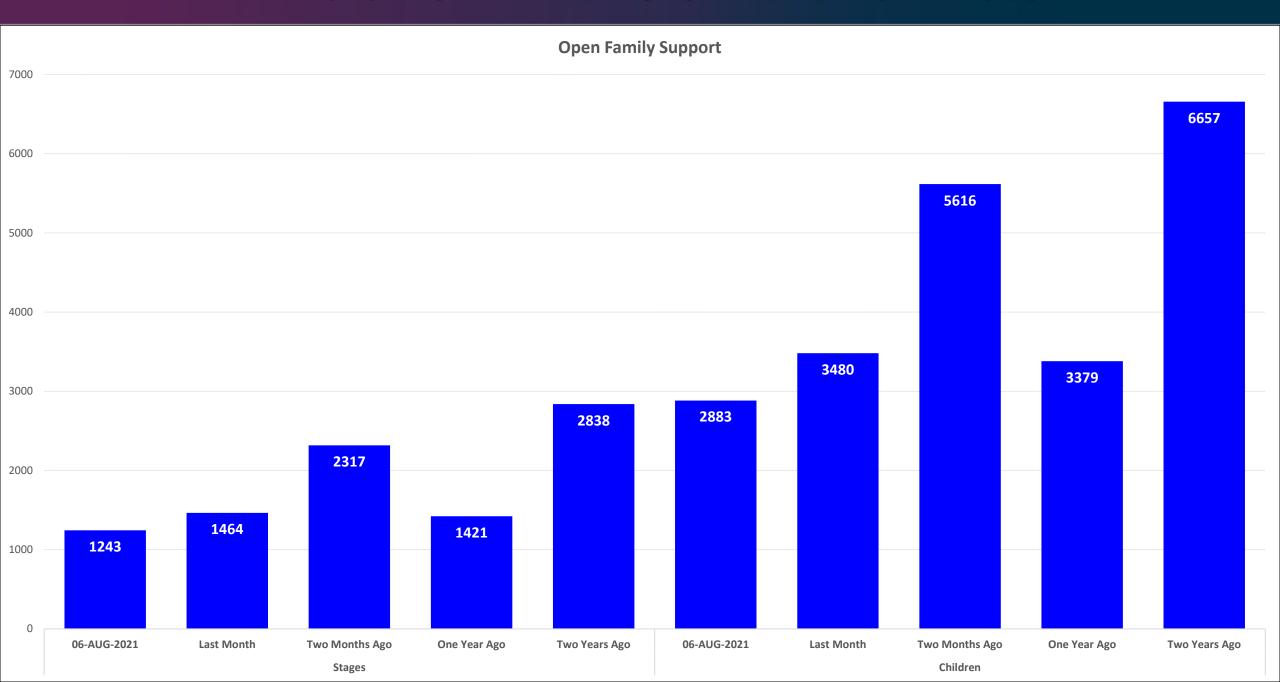
Mary Havick

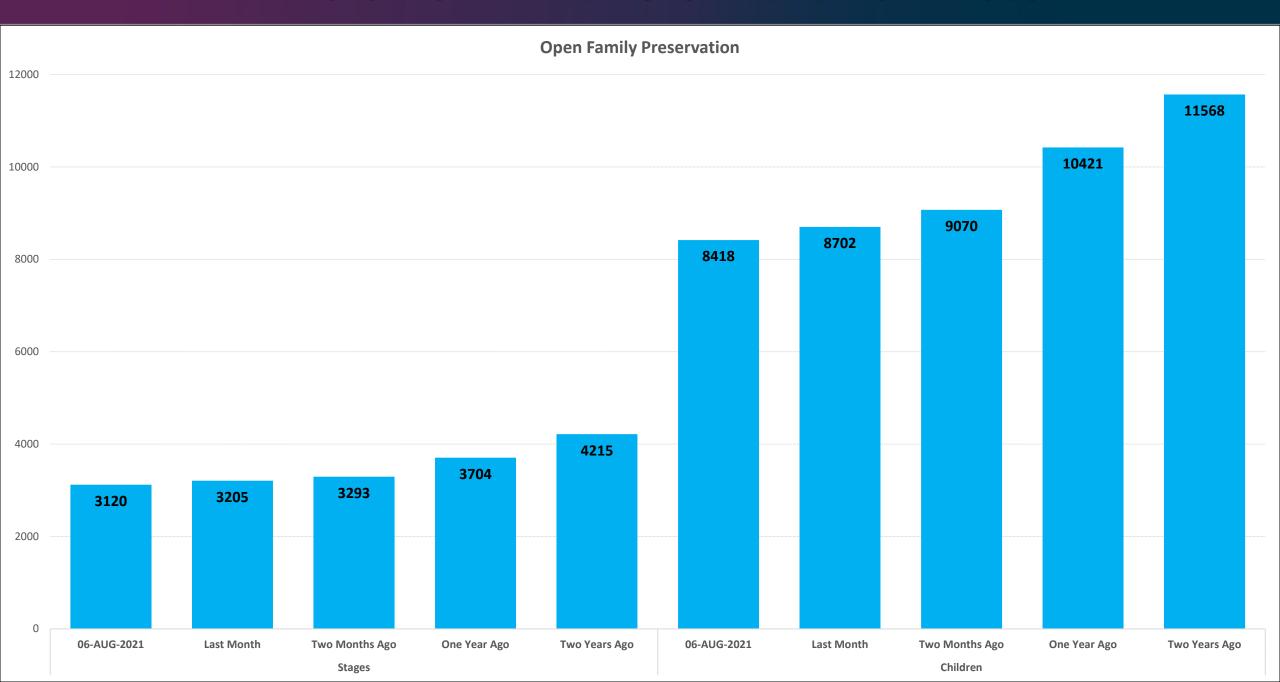
Deputy Division Director Child Welfare



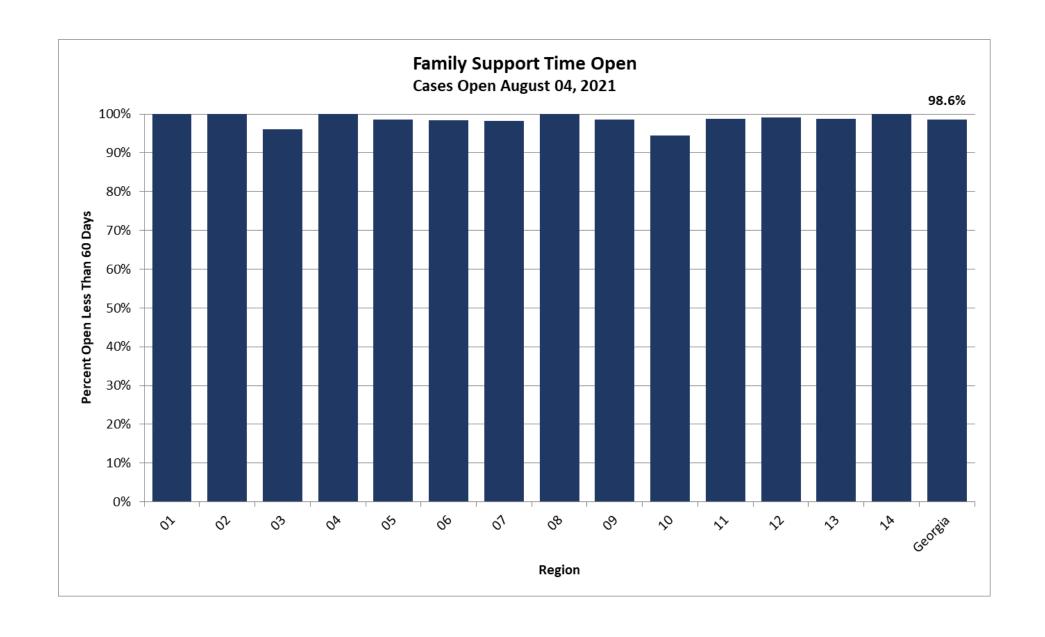
Active Totals and Child Welfare Performance Data

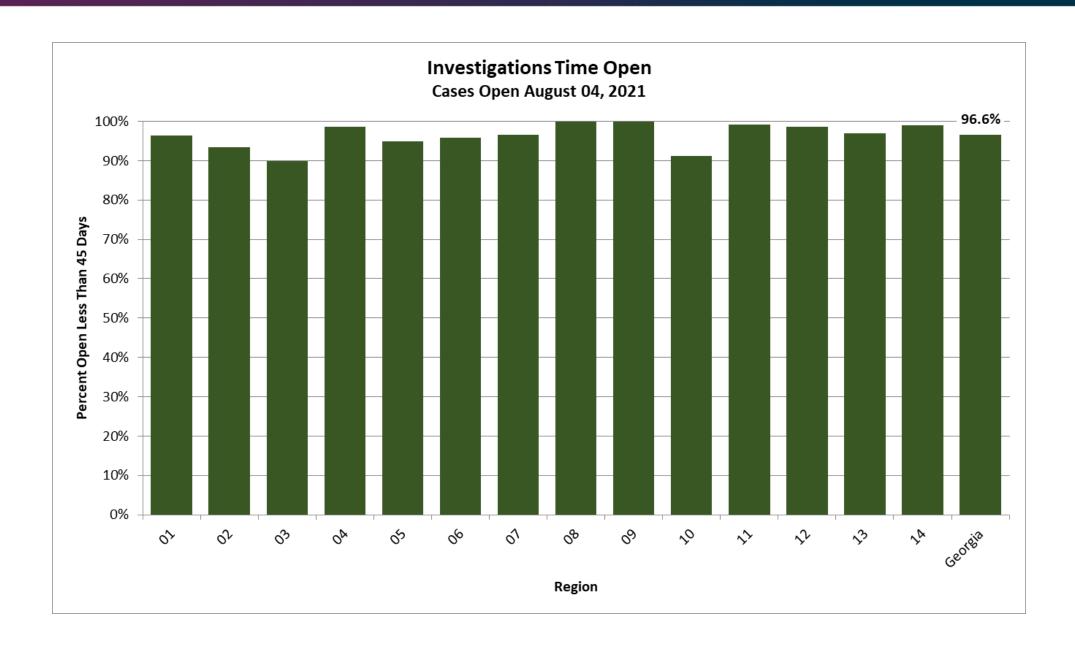


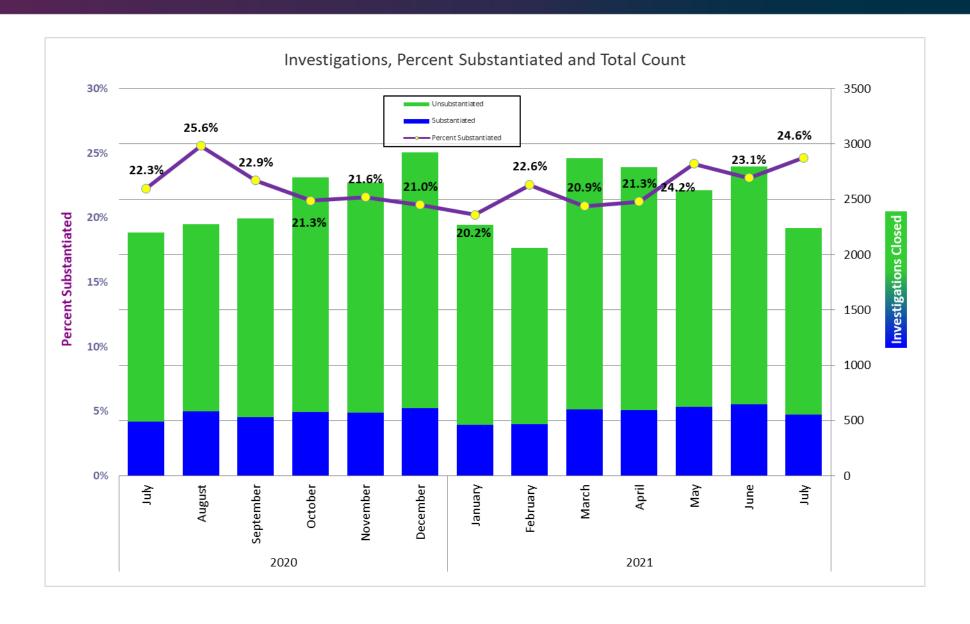




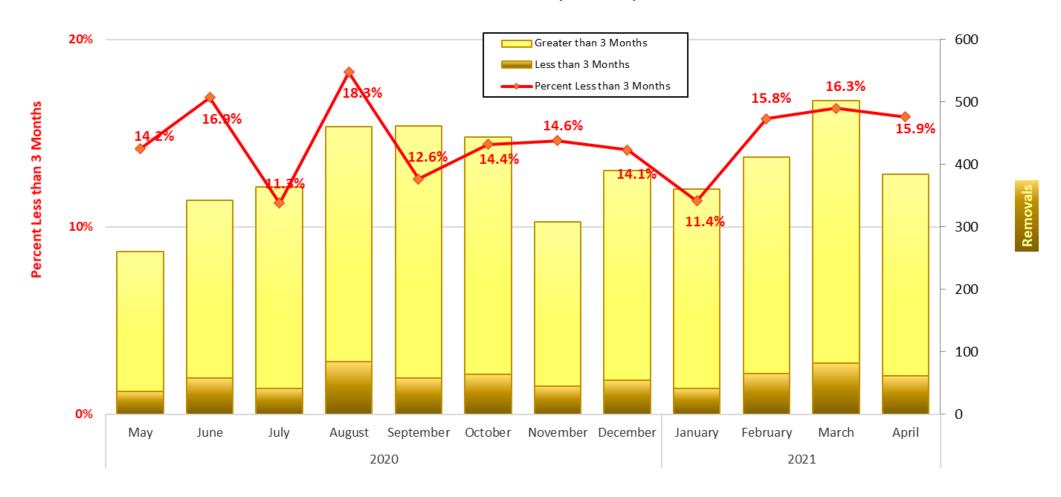








Georgia Foster Episodes Less than 3 Months, by Removal Month Removals: 2020 May - 2021 April



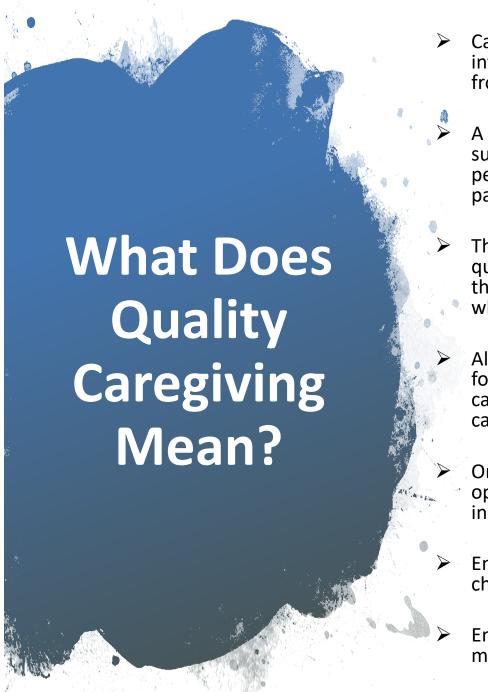


Georgia's Kinship Care Services and Supports

Georgia's State-wide Kinship Navigator Program



- The Georgia Division of Family and Children Services launched the navigator program in 2015 in partnership with the Governor's Office, and DHS in direct response to increasing number of grandparents and other caregivers who have assumed responsibility for raising another relatives' child/ren. As of 2020 thirty-two (32%) of all children in care are placed with kin.
- In 2019, Georgia enhanced our Kinship Care Portal to feature an online referral form and included engaging whiteboards to highlight the growing rate of kinship caregiving throughout the state.
- Kinship caregivers serving on the state's advisory council were instrumental in portal's re-design and instituting our first-annual Kinship Care Summit.



Caregivers are the child welfare system's primary intervention for children who have been removed from their families

A quality caregiver is a full partner in a team supporting the healthy development and achieving permanency for children who cannot live with their parents'

The specific job of the caregiver is to provide high quality parenting by assuming many of the roles of the child's parents and provide for the child's needs while the child is in their home

All caregivers receive training to become approved foster homes. High-quality training also provides caregivers with the fundamentals of quality caregiving for children in foster care

Ongoing training and other educational opportunities for caregivers that is targeted to the individual needs of children in caregivers' homes

Engaging caregivers as full and respected partners in child centered decision making

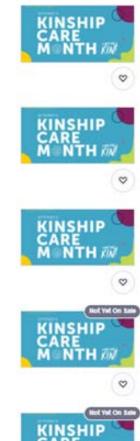
Ensure adequate financial and other resources to meet the needs of children



Kinship Care Month Webinars

Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/o/georgia-division-of-family-amp-children-services-8298609461





Kinship Care Contact Information

Tacia Spooner, Kinship Director

Tacia.Spooner@dhs.ga.gov 404-309-7699

ChaKevia Melvin, Program Manager

ChaKevia.Melvin@dhs.ga.gov 678-984-5880



State Adoption Program

November is National Adoption Month Theme: "Every Conversation Matters"

- Finalized 1,292 Adoptions in SFY 2021
- 300 Children with no Adoptive Family
- 55% of waiting children are TEENS





"Every Conversation Matters"

Recognizes that authentic youth engagement depends on building authentic relationships, which can begin with a single conversation.

- The message to Adoption Staff and those working with teens:
 - Youth engagement is essential to achieving permanency for teens
 - Authentic listening is important in engaging young people
 - The importance of incorporating youth voice to improve practice





Jon Anderson

Chief Deputy Division Director



Office of Family Independence

• The Office of Family Independence's goal is to strengthen Georgians by providing individuals and families access to services that promote self-sufficiency and independence.



- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medical Assistance
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)





July 2021

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps)

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

\$469

724K

\$340M

Avg. monthly benefit (July 2021)

Number of SNAP families

Monthly avg. SNAP benefits issued



• Benefits Funding Source



Applications processed

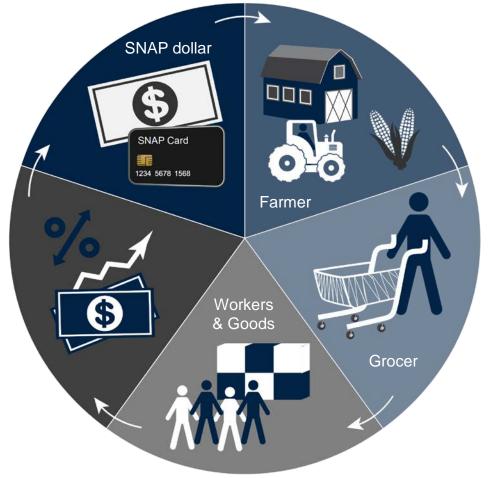


 Maximum Benefit for a Household of One
 *15 % increase included



• Renewals Processed

Economic Impact of SNAP in Georgia



Moody's Analytics estimates that \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity.



SNAP households receive benefits on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of the **263,100** authorized retail locations around the country – including some **10,300** in Georgia.

MEDICAID

Medicaid

Medicaid provides health coverage to low-income families, pregnant women and adults who are determined to be aged, blind or disabled. DFCS is a contractor of the Department of Community Health, providing eligibility determinations to applicants of the program.

1,023,560

■ Average number of Georgia families receiving Medicaid services each month in (June 2021)

In September 2017, Georgia implemented a statewide eligibility system, **Georgia Gateway**. The system is a collaborative system between multiple state agencies that determines constituents' eligibility for social benefits.



• Benefits Funding Source

1,023,560

Number of Families

2,059,215

Number of individuals (July 2021)

181,206

Average number of children receiving PeachCare

TANF

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides time-limited cash assistance to Georgia's neediest families.

\$258

Avg. monthly benefit (July 2021)

Monthly
of
Mandatory
Work
Cases

1,300

5,834

Child-only TANF cases 99.98% Federal .02% State

Funding Source

3,158

Applications Processed

\$1,838,963

Total Issuance (July 2021)

Pandemic Response

COVID-19

Agency Pandemic Response





SNAP online application launched in Georgia Gateway

May – June 2020



Renewal extensions

ABAWD req. suspension

Online Purchasing w/ in-store pickup

Online Purchasing w/ EBT delivery



December 2020 - March 2021

P-SNAP
Renewal extensions
ABAWD req. suspension
Online Purchasing Program
15% SNAP Increase
SNAP Student pandemic allowances

P-SNAP Renewal extensions ABAWD requirement suspension



March - April 2020

P-SNAP

Renewal extensions

ABAWD req. suspension Online Purchasing Program

LIHEAP Cares

P-EBT

July – November 2020

P-SNAP

Renewal extensions

ABAWD req. suspension

Online Purchasing Program

15% SNAP Increase

SNAP Student pandemic

allowances

LIHEAP Cooling

TANF Cares

LIHWAP

March 2021 and beyond

DIVISION OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES

SNAP Applications Received by Date and Submission Mode



Note: Bars represent Weekly Totals



The United States Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) Food and Nutrition Services (**FNS**) recently approved a request to *Waive Interview at Certification and Recertification when ID is Verified and Mandatory Verifications Complete.*

The waiver is effective as of **September 1** and expires on December 31

Justification:

Spike in applications - Staff are getting upwards of 15-20 SNAP expedites a day



Thank You

#iamtheblueprint



Board Member Regional Reports

Please **briefly** address the following:

- What are 1-2 key successes or highlights within your region?
- What are 1-2 key challenges or concerns emerging from your region or county?
- Are there any issues needing attention?
- RAB status report

Closing Remarks and Adjournment Next board meeting: November 9, 2021