

Georgia Department of Human Resources

Division of Family and Children Services

The Division of Family and Children Services is responsible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), food stamp benefits, child support enforcement and collection, and social services.

Under TANF, families cannot receive cash assistance for more than four years. Most adult recipients with minor children participate in a work activity to receive benefits.

Benefits and Employment Programs

Caseworkers in the Division of Family and Children Services receive applications and certify families for TANF, food stamps, Medicaid and childcare.

The Electronic Benefit Transfer system replaced paper checks and food stamp coupons with a plastic debit card. Recipients get the amount of their benefits placed on the card each month, and they can use the card to withdraw money or purchase food items.

The subsidized day care program allows low-income families to pay for day care on a sliding fee scale so they can work or train for employment, and it provides a safety valve to protect children from abuse.

Social Services

Caseworkers give protective services to abused and neglected children and adults. DFCS recruits and trains foster and adoptive parents. Through services such as referrals for employment and child support, parenting education, counseling and substance abuse treatment, caseworkers help families work out their problems so children in foster care can go home safely. Services are provided to strengthen

families who receive child or adult protective services or have children in foster care. They help disabled adults remain in their homes and work with troubled families to prevent the out-of-home placement of children. Services include home management and parenting help and training.

The Community Services Block Grant provides services that help low-income families become self-sufficient. DFCS' Community Services Section provides such services as employability, transportation, housing and nutrition.

Other Programs

The FY 2000 Energy Assistance Program helps eligible low-income families pay their heating and cooling costs.

The Refugee Resettlement program provides refugees social services including English instruction, translation, and help finding employment as well as cash and medical assistance.

Teen Parent Program helps adolescent parents complete high school, delay a second pregnancy, and become self-sufficient. Services include on-site childcare, parenting skills training and social services.

The family Violence Program has 43 certified, private agencies to provide emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of family violence. A statewide toll-free, 24-hour crisis line, 1-800-33-HAVEN, automatically connects the caller to the nearest family violence agency. Program staff provided technical support and training to staff of the certified agencies.