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Resources For  
Your Child’s  
Recovery

## Message from the Executive Director

Children have remarkable powers of recovery. Their determination to return to playing, laughing and learning can help heal their bodies. And those who have sustained a traumatic brain injury or a spinal cord injury are no different.

Yet, navigating recovery resources can be confusing. That is why we created this guide. The questions and resources listed here will get you started. As your family goes forward, remember you are not alone:

- The two groups at highest risk for traumatic brain injury are: birth to age 4 and ages 15 to 19.<sup>1</sup>
- More than 475,000 children sustain traumatic brain injuries each year—that is one injury every 21 seconds.<sup>1</sup>
- Nationally, more than half of all spinal cord injuries are sustained between the ages of 16 and 30.<sup>2</sup>

Fortunately, there are many organizations to assist your child and family. If you do not have Internet access, remember you can use the computers at your local library or at your child's school. Here are just a few organizations to help start your search:

- Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission, [www.bsitf.state.ga.us](http://www.bsitf.state.ga.us)
- Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), [www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org)
- National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities, [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)
- National Spinal Cord Injury Association, [www.spinalcord.org](http://www.spinalcord.org)
- Parent to Parent of Georgia, [www.parenttoparentofga.org](http://www.parenttoparentofga.org)

Do not hesitate to ask for what your child needs—and teach your child to do the same. Being assertive will help you and your child become experts.

Sincerely,



Craig Young, Executive Director, Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006

2. National Spinal Injury Database, 2000

Knowing your rights and advocating for your child and yourself is very important. Learn from, and join, others.

**Questions to ask:**

- What are my child’s legal rights? Who do I call? (This may be related to school, housing, public transportation, employment, accessibility or medical claims.)
- What can I do if my child is being discriminated against because of his or her disability?

**Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission:** Learn about local and federal advocacy initiatives for people with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries.

[www.bsitf.state.ga.us](http://www.bsitf.state.ga.us)

2 Peachtree St. NW, Suite 26-426, Atlanta, GA 30303-3141  
888-233-5760

**Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA):** Founded in 1980, the BIAA is the leading national organization serving and representing individuals, families and professionals who are touched by a life-altering, often devastating, traumatic brain injury.

[www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org)

1608 Spring Hill Road, Suite 110, Vienna, VA 22182-2241  
800-444-6443

**Brain Injury Association of Georgia:** A charitable organization working together with families and professionals in Georgia to provide education, advocacy and support for those affected by brain injury. When local support is available, the association offers a summer camp for children and teenagers with brain injuries.

[www.braininjurygeorgia.org](http://www.braininjurygeorgia.org)

1441 Clifton Road NE, Suite 114-A, Atlanta, GA 30322-1062  
404-712-5504

**Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation:** Founded in 1999, this nonprofit organization is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy.

[www.christopherreeve.org](http://www.christopherreeve.org)

636 Morris Turnpike, Suite 3A, Short Hills, NJ 07078-2622  
800-225-0292

**Easter Seals Disability Services:** This agency offers information and referral, therapy, child care, Head Start programs, teacher training, vocational testing and training, equipment and support for all family needs. The services are delivered through five regional offices: North, Southern, East, West and Middle Georgia.

[www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com)

[www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com)

[www.ga-ea.easterseals.com](http://www.ga-ea.easterseals.com)

[www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com)

[www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com)

**Georgia Advocacy Office (Parent Leadership Support Project):** The goals of the project are to train advocates and enable parents of children with disabilities to master information and negotiate systems to secure educational opportunities mandated for children with disabilities.

[www.thegao.org](http://www.thegao.org)  
150 East Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 430, Decatur, GA 30030-2547  
404-885-1234 or 800-537-2329

**Georgia Legal Services Program Inc.:** A nonprofit organization that provides free legal services to low-income people in civil matters.

[www.glspp.org](http://www.glspp.org)  
104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 250, Atlanta, GA 30303-2706  
404-206-5175

**Health Law Partnership (HeLP):** This partnership with Georgia State University, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society assists families and their children with basic civil legal problems. This organization can help with public benefits (for example, Medicaid), housing, special education, discipline problems, employment debt relief and drafting legal documents. They also provide assistance with special education services for children up to age 21.

[www.healthlawpartnership.org](http://www.healthlawpartnership.org)  
Offices at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
404-785-2005

**National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA):** A national nonprofit organization that strives to provide individuals with spinal cord injuries with information and resources available that will help educate and empower them to maintain a higher level of independence, health and personal fulfillment. The association also provides peer support.

[www.spinalcord.org](http://www.spinalcord.org)  
1 Church St., Suite 600, Rockville, MD 20850-4158  
800-962-9629

**Parents Educating Parents and Professionals (PEPP):** This nonprofit organization is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all families of children and youth with disabilities.

[www.peppinc.org](http://www.peppinc.org)  
8355 Cherokee Blvd., Suite 100, Douglasville, GA 30134-2591  
770-577-7771 or 800-322-7065

**Parent Mentors of Georgia:** Many of the counties in Georgia have parent mentors who work within the school system trying to build bridges between the home and the school. A list of all counties who provide this service to families with children with special learning or physical needs is available. Contact your local Georgia Learning Resources System office for more information.

[www.glrs.org](http://www.glrs.org)

**Parent to Parent of Georgia:** This organization provides a very lengthy list of resources for support and information on all topics to parents of children with disabilities. In addition to the resources, parents can be matched with a supporting parent based on the child's disability, healthcare needs or special concerns. A list of regional offices is available on the Web site.

[www.parenttoparentofga.org](http://www.parenttoparentofga.org)

3805 Presidential Parkway, Suite 207, Atlanta, GA 30340-3720

770-451-5484 or 800-229-2038

# Assistive Technology

Technology is transforming the lives of children with disabilities. Options range from low-tech solutions such as reading stands and modified eating utensils to high-tech equipment like voice-activated computers. Contact your local pediatric hospital for more information about evaluations and services. This list of organizations can help you determine what might work for your child.

## **Questions to ask:**

- What technology is available to increase my child’s independence? (This may include wheelchairs or other mobility device, home modifications, environmental controls, computers, communication devices, cognitive devices and toys.)

**Assistive Technology Department of the Shepherd Center:** The department offers specialists to help teenagers with limited mobility or neurological deficits. Specialists provide assistive technology evaluations, seating clinic evaluations and evaluations for environmental control.

[www.shepherd.org](http://www.shepherd.org)  
2020 Peachtree Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30309-1465  
404-352-2020

**Babies Can’t Wait:** This organization provides information on how to obtain access to early intervention services and training for infants and toddlers with disabilities. These services are guaranteed through federal law under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for all eligible children. There are 18 district offices throughout the state and a list of coordinator contact numbers is available.

[www.health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw](http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw)  
404-657-2726 or 888-651-8224

**Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Assistive Technology Center (CHAAT):** The Center, located at Children’s at Scottish Rite, provides pediatric evaluations, training and tool access for augmentative communication, computer services, electronic aids and mobility services through a seating clinic.

[www.choa.org/chatt](http://www.choa.org/chatt)  
1001 Johnson Ferry Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30342-1600  
404-785-7100

**Children’s Medical Services (CMS):** This agency may arrange for, or pay for, all eligible medical, transitional and assistive technology services, as funds are available, for children with spinal cord injuries. There are 18 district offices throughout the state and a list of contact numbers is available.

[www.health.state.ga.us/programs/cms](http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/cms)  
404-657-2726

**Easter Seals Disability Services:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 1. The services are delivered through five regional offices: North, Southern, East, West and Middle Georgia.

[www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.ga-ea.easterseals.com](http://www.ga-ea.easterseals.com)  
[www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com)

**Family Center on Technology and Disability (Academy for Educational**

**Development):** This resource offers information and services to organizations that work with families of children with disabilities. Information is available to improve the parents' ability to understand technology vocabulary and specific tools so more informed choices can be made for their child's technology needs.

[www.fctd.info](http://www.fctd.info)

1825 Connecticut Ave. NW, Seventh Floor, Washington, DC, 20009-5721  
202-884-8068

**Fragile Kids Foundation:** This foundation may provide medical equipment not covered by private- or government-sponsored insurance.

[www.fragilekids.org](http://www.fragilekids.org)

3350 Riverwood Parkway, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30339-3314  
770-951-6111

**Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Inc. (FODAC) Tools for Life:** FODAC is a nonprofit organization that provides medical equipment to disabled people in metro Atlanta who could not otherwise afford it (they cannot ship items).

[www.fodac.org](http://www.fodac.org)

4900 Lewis Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30083-1104  
770-491-9014

**Georgia Department of Education (DOE):** As a parent of an injured child with special needs you have the right to request, if it is appropriate, an assistive technology evaluation to determine what tools will enable your child to perform more independently. If eligibility is proven, the school system will provide you with identified tools and training. Special education students with disabilities between ages 3 to 21 may be eligible.

[www.doe.k12.ga.us](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us)

2066 Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334-9050  
404-656-2800

**Georgia Institute of Technology Center for Assistive Technology and**

**Environmental Access (CATEA):** This program offers a wide variety of assistive technology- and disability-related information with a database to help determine costs and links to vendors. Family members and people with disabilities are the two major populations served.

[www.catea.org](http://www.catea.org)

490 10<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30332-0156  
404-894-9320

**Georgia Project for Assistive Technology (GPAT):** This program is a special project of the Georgia Department of Education. It provides special education students with an evaluation, which must be requested through the local director of special education. The program has a short-term device loan program to assist schools in making decisions about the appropriate tools for the student.

[www.gpat.org](http://www.gpat.org)

404-463-3597

**Lekotek of Georgia:** This organization provides information about adapted toys, a playroom to evaluate tools and a toy lending library.

[www.lekotekga.org](http://www.lekotekga.org)

1955 Cliff Valley Way NE, Suite 102, Atlanta, GA 30329-2476

404-633-3430

**Tools for Life Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs):** The ATRCs are hands-on learning centers for demonstration, education and evaluation of products available on the market today. They are also a resource for Georgians with disabilities, families, friends, healthcare professionals and other professionals who are interested in seeing, learning and experimenting with new and existing assistive technology. In addition, the Credit-Able/Getting Ahead Association provides guaranteed loans for assistive technology, home and vehicle modifications to Georgians with disabilities, their families, caregivers and/or employers. Centers are located in Atlanta, Augusta, Macon and Conyers.

[www.gatfl.org](http://www.gatfl.org)

1700 Century Circle, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30345-3020

404-486-6333 or 800-497-8665

Education is a right for every American regardless of their ability level. Even so, parents of children with disabilities often encounter significant challenges to getting their child a proper education. There are many organizations that can assist you with educational support for your child.

**Questions to ask:**

- Who can help me get my child back in school?
- Who can help me if my child is having trouble in school?
- Who can help me if my child is younger than age 5?
- Who can help me if my child is in, or wants to go to, college?
- Does my child’s school have a disability services program?

**Babies Can’t Wait:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 4. There are 18 district offices throughout the state and a list of coordinator contact numbers is available.

[www.health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw](http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw)  
404-657-2726 or 888-651-8224

**Bright from the Start, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning:** This program manages the Georgia pre-kindergarten program and trains teachers and child care providers in Georgia.

[www.decal.state.ga.us](http://www.decal.state.ga.us)  
404-656-5957

**Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta School Nurse Liaison/Consultant Program:**

This Program offers assistance with school reentry by teaching school and health workers how to care for each child’s medical condition. The experienced pediatric nurses can improve communication between parents and school staff.

[www.choa.org/schoolnurseliason](http://www.choa.org/schoolnurseliason)  
404-250-KIDS  
Contact Joyce Allers, R.N.

**Communities in Schools—Performance Learning Centers (division of the Department of Labor under Workforce Investment Act):** The Learning Centers are small, nontraditional high schools that serve students who are not succeeding in the traditional school setting. The schools offer high school diploma completion, general educational development (GED) diplomas and employment services with mentor support. There are 27 schools in Georgia.

[www.cisga.org](http://www.cisga.org)  
600 West Peachtree St., Suite 1200, Atlanta, GA 30308-3607  
404-888-5784 or 800-838-5784

**Easter Seals Disability Services:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 1. The services are delivered through five regional offices: North, Southern, East, West and Middle Georgia.

[www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.ga-ea.easterseals.com](http://www.ga-ea.easterseals.com)  
[www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com)

**Georgia Advocacy Office (Parent Leadership Support Project):** The goals of the Project are to train advocates and enable Georgia parents of children with disabilities and other concerned citizens to master information, and negotiate systems in order to secure the educational opportunities that are mandated for children with disabilities. In addition, they support grassroots parent leadership efforts and sustain shared learning among advocates.

[www.thegao.org](http://www.thegao.org)

150 East Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 430, Decatur, GA 30030-2547

404-885-1234 or 800-537-2329

**Georgia Association of Higher Education and Disabilities (Postsecondary Education Support):** This organization offers information about the Georgia university system and resources available to college students with disabilities. The state is divided into five regions that have chapter offices and representatives to offer support. Names, locations and contact numbers needed to gain information on specific colleges in each region are available.

[www.ga-ahead.org](http://www.ga-ahead.org)

**Georgia Department of Education (DOE):** Parents of injured children should request an official meeting at the school to discuss the child's current needs. If appropriate due to medical reasons, a referral may be made to consider special education services. After completion of required documentation of injury, the school system may schedule evaluations to officially identify the child's school-related needs (academic, assistive technology, behavioral, physical and therapy) as compared to past achievement. If eligibility is proven, an individual education plan (IEP) will be written with goals and services. The parent is an official member of the committee that makes decisions. If the child is not ready to return to school, services can be obtained for instruction in the home. Call the Georgia DOE to obtain contact names and phone numbers for county administrators who are knowledgeable about brain injury. Students with disabilities between the ages of 3 to 21 may be eligible.

[www.doe.k12.ga.us](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us)

2066 Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334-9050

404-656-2800

**Georgia Department of Labor/Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Tools for Life Program:** VR counselors from the Department of Labor can be available in school systems for special education students age 14 and older. The vocational counselor may assist in developing the official high school transition plan including the student's vocational preparation, training and job development. After high school graduation, vocational services are provided directly by a counselor from your local office of the Department of Labor.

[www.vocrehabga.org](http://www.vocrehabga.org)

800-255-0135

**Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS):** This network of 17 centers throughout Georgia provides training and resources to parents of students with disabilities. GLRS has an extensive learning library for parents and teachers with published traumatic brain injury materials at low or no cost for parents. In addition, GLRS develops a very extensive summer camp and respite directory annually.

[www.glr.org](http://www.glr.org)

Atlanta Branch, 2415-C North Druid Hills Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-3210

678-676-2400

**Health Law Partnership (HeLP):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 2.

[www.healthlawpartnership.org](http://www.healthlawpartnership.org)

Offices at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

404-785-2005

**National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY):**

NICHCY is a central source of information on the law-authorizing special education and research-based information on effective educational practices.

[www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)

P.O. Box 1492 Washington, DC 20013-1492

800-695-0285

**Parent to Parent of Georgia:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 3.

A list of regional offices is available on the Web site.

[www.parenttoparentofga.org](http://www.parenttoparentofga.org)

3805 Presidential Parkway, Suite 207, Atlanta, GA 30340-3720

770-451-5484 or 800-229-2038

**Wrightslaw:** This group offers complete information on school law from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and parent rights related to obtaining special education services. Resources are available for parents, teachers, attorneys and school personnel.

[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)

## Emotions and Behavior

Behavior problems can be one of the most challenging issues facing children and their families after a traumatic brain injury or a spinal cord injury. Emotional or behavioral problems caused by brain injury may not be noticeable for months or even years after the injury. If you have a child who is experiencing emotional or behavioral problems caused by a brain injury, contact your family doctor, a child psychologist, a rehabilitation specialist or a neuropsychologist who specializes in traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injuries. Children who have sustained a spinal cord injury may also experience emotional or behavioral problems following the trauma of the injury and may also benefit from the help of a family physician or child psychologist. It may be helpful to initially contact your child's school counselor and/or the school psychologist for assistance or referrals.

### **Questions to ask:**

- What causes behavioral problems?
- How can I best manage my child's behaviors?
- Where can I find a support group?

**Babies Can't Wait:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 4. There are 18 district offices throughout the state and a list of coordinator contact numbers is available.

[www.health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw](http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw)  
404-657-2726 or 888-651-8224

**Brain Injury Association of Georgia:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 1.

[www.braininjurygeorgia.org](http://www.braininjurygeorgia.org)  
1441 Clifton Road NE, Suite 114-A, Atlanta, GA 30322-1062  
404-712-5504

### **Bright from the Start, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning:**

For a full program description, please refer to Page 7.

[www.dec.state.ga.us](http://www.dec.state.ga.us)  
404-656-5957

**Children's Medical Services (CMS):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 4. There are 18 district offices throughout the state and a list of contact numbers is available.

[www.health.state.ga.us/programs/cms](http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/cms)  
404-657-2726

**Easter Seals Disability Services:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 1. The services are delivered through five regional offices: North, Southern, East, West and Middle Georgia.

[www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.ga-ea.easterseals.com](http://www.ga-ea.easterseals.com)  
[www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com)

**Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS):** This organization provides respite care and recreation support to families of children with special needs. Metro Atlanta has seven locations.

[www.focus-ga.org](http://www.focus-ga.org)

3825 Presidential Parkway, Suite 103, Atlanta, GA 30340-3794

770-234-9111

**Georgia Department of Education (DOE):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 5.

[www.doe.k12.ga.us](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us)

2066 Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334-9050

404-656-2800

**Parent Mentors of Georgia:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 2.

[www.glr.org](http://www.glr.org)

**Parent to Parent of Georgia:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 3. A list of regional offices is available on the Web site.

[www.parenttoparentofga.org](http://www.parenttoparentofga.org)

3805 Presidential Parkway, Suite 207, Atlanta, GA 30340-3720

770-451-5484 or 800-229-2038

# Financial Assistance, Financial Planning and Benefits

Traumatic injuries are expensive. No one should underestimate the financial strain a traumatic injury can have on a family. Fortunately, several government programs and healthcare initiatives exist to relieve financial stress.

In addition, depending on the extent of the child's injury and the finances of the family, you may want to consider creating a trust fund for your child's lifetime needs. Also, families often consider contacting someone who can help them create a life care plan for their child.

## **Questions to ask:**

- What medical expenses may my child have?
- How will my child's or teenager's needs change as they grow?
- How do I get assistance with my child's medical and equipment needs?
- How do I provide for my child's future well-being?

**Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 1.

[www.bsitf.state.ga.us](http://www.bsitf.state.ga.us)  
2 Peachtree St. NW, Suite 26-426, Atlanta, GA 30303-3141  
888-233-5760

**Credit-Able/Getting Ahead Association:** This organization provides guaranteed loans for assistive technology, home and vehicle modifications to Georgians with disabilities, their families, caregivers and/or employers.

[www.gatfl.org](http://www.gatfl.org)  
1700 Century Circle, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30345-3020  
404-486-6333 or 800-497-8665

**Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids (MetDESK):** For parents who have children with special needs, there are often serious concerns about how to provide for their child's future well-being. It is important to provide sufficient resources to guarantee quality-of-life without causing a loss or reduction in government benefits especially for those older than age 18. This division of MetDESK was established in 1998 to extend their commitment of public service to families with children with all disabilities.

[www.metlife.com/desk](http://www.metlife.com/desk)  
877-638-3375

**Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH):** This Department is the only state agency for Medicaid. Medicaid provides medical assistance (doctors, pharmacists and hospitals) for families of children who cannot afford to pay for some or all of their medical bills. Information about Medicaid and the Katie Beckett/Deeming Waiver is also available. Tutorials are listed for parents to learn about the steps that are required to qualify for the services. (The additional office of Right from the Start Medicaid can provide assistance completing applications by calling 800-809-7276)

[www.dch.georgia.gov](http://www.dch.georgia.gov)  
2 Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA 30303-3109  
404-463-4257

**Georgia Department of Labor/Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Tools for Life**

**Program:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 8.

[www.vocrehabga.org](http://www.vocrehabga.org)  
800-255-0135

**Georgia Legal Aid:** This group offers free legal information and legal services to low-income families. Listings of special interest (15 available) may include: health, wills and life planning, public benefits (medical coverage), plus others.

[www.legalaid-ga.org](http://www.legalaid-ga.org)  
[www.atlantalegalaid.org](http://www.atlantalegalaid.org)  
151 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30303-2007  
404-524-5811

**Health Law Partnership (HeLP):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 2.

[www.healthlawpartnership.org](http://www.healthlawpartnership.org)  
Offices at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta  
404-785-2005

**Social Security Administration:** This Administration provides cash benefits to people who have worked and have become disabled. This entitlement program ensures that citizens with disabilities receive benefits.

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)  
800-772-1213

## Housing

The Fair Housing Act protects and encourages people with disabilities to live independently, whether in their own home or in one that is accessible and affordable. You may need to make changes to your home after your child's injury. If your child is in a hospital program, you should ask for a home evaluation to determine what should be changed.

### **Questions to ask:**

- How do I make changes in my home to accommodate my child's needs?
- How do I find someone qualified to suggest changes in my home?

**Department of Community Affairs (DCA):** The Georgia DCA operates a host of state and federal grant programs including Section 8.

[www.dca.state.ga.us](http://www.dca.state.ga.us)

60 Executive Park South NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-2296

404-679-4940 or 800-359-4663

**Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** Homeownership centers insure single-family Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgages and oversee the selling of HUD homes.

Five Points Plaza Building, 40 Marietta St., Atlanta, GA 30303-2806

404-331-5001 or 800-767-4483

**Easter Seals Disability Services:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 1. The services are delivered through five regional offices: North, Southern, East, West and Middle Georgia.

[www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com)

[www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com)

[www.ga-ea.easterseals.com](http://www.ga-ea.easterseals.com)

[www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com)

[www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com)

**Georgia Housing Search:** This organization provides an online tool for helping people with special needs find housing options.

[www.georgiahousingsearch.org](http://www.georgiahousingsearch.org)

**National Association of Home Builders (NAHB):** This organization provides directories of housing resources for people with disabilities. In addition, Project Home Building Opportunities for Positive Employment (HOPE) provides people with disabilities with intensive training and employment and related services to connect them with jobs in the home building industry.

[www.nahb.org](http://www.nahb.org)

### **Travis Roy Foundation for Spinal Cord Injury Survivors and Research:**

This association offers help and grant funding for assistance with home modification and equipment.

[www.travisroyfoundation.org](http://www.travisroyfoundation.org)

111 Huntington Ave., 19<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02199-7613

617-239-0556

Your child's medical needs will change over time. As your child grows, adjustments may need to be made to your child's medical equipment (for example: wheelchairs, walkers and feeding equipment). Contact your local pediatric hospital for more information about evaluations and services.

You should contact your child's doctor for an annual checkup (or more often if possible). If your child has medical/physical equipment at school, you should request an evaluation yearly to determine if the equipment is still working for your child.

**Questions to ask:**

- What medical needs may my child have?
- How will my child's needs change as he grows?
- How do I get assistance with my child's medical and equipment changes?

**Assistive Technology Department of the Shepherd Center:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 4.

[www.shepherd.org](http://www.shepherd.org)  
2020 Peachtree Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30309-1465  
404-352-2020

**Babies Can't Wait:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 4. There are 18 district offices throughout the state and a list of coordinator contact numbers is available.

[www.health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw](http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw)  
404-657-2726 or 888-651-8224

**Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Assistive Technology Center (CHATT):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 4.

[www.choa.org/chat](http://www.choa.org/chat)  
1001 Johnson Ferry Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30342-1600  
404-785-7100

**Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Nurse Liaison/Consultant Program:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 7.

[www.choa.org/schoolnurseliason](http://www.choa.org/schoolnurseliason)  
404-250-KIDS  
Contact Joyce Allers, R.N.

**Children's Medical Services (CMS):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 4. There are 18 district offices throughout the state and a list of contact numbers is available.

[www.health.state.ga.us/programs/cms](http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/cms)  
404-657-2726

**Easter Seals Disability Services:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 1. The services are delivered through five regional offices: North, Southern, East, West and Middle Georgia.

[www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.northgeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.southerngeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.ga-ea.easterseals.com](http://www.ga-ea.easterseals.com)  
[www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.westgeorgia.easterseals.com)  
[www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com](http://www.middlegeorgia.easterseals.com)

**Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Inc. (FODAC) Tools for Life:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 5.

[www.fodac.org](http://www.fodac.org)

4900 Lewis Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30083-1104

770-491-9014

**Georgia Department of Education (DOE):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 5.

[www.doe.k12.ga.us](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us)

2066 Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334-9050

404-656-2800

**Shriners Hospitals for Children:** This network of 22 hospitals provides specialized care for (not limited to) orthopaedic conditions and spinal cord injuries. Eligibility is not based on financial need or relationship to a Shriner. Two of the hospitals (Greenville and Tampa) provide expert care for orthopaedic issues.

[www.shrinershq.org](http://www.shrinershq.org)

800-237-5055

## Prescription Assistance

The programs listed here help people with low incomes and/or little or no insurance obtain necessary medications.

### Questions to ask:

– How can I get financial help to pay for my child's prescriptions?

**Eli Lilly:** Lilly Answers is a patient assistance program for low-income Medicare enrollees who do not have prescription drug coverage. The Lilly Answers card allows people with disabilities under Medicare to pay a \$12 fee for a 30-day supply of certain retail-distributed Lilly drugs.

[www.lillyanswers.com](http://www.lillyanswers.com)  
877-795-4559

**Free Meds and Solutions:** This organization has applications to apply to more than 170 programs offering more than 1,000 brand-name drugs.

[www.freemedandsolutions.com](http://www.freemedandsolutions.com)  
14200 Racine Circle, Magalia, CA 95954-9478  
866-822-7905

**Medicare:** Public and private programs offer discounted or free medication, programs that help with other healthcare costs and Medicare health plans that include prescription coverage.

[www.medicare.org](http://www.medicare.org)  
800-669-8387

**Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company:** Through Sharing the Care, Pfizer donates most of its advanced medicines to low-income, uninsured patients through a network of 380 community, migrant and homeless health centers across the country. Serves Wrightsville, Atlanta and Savannah.

[www.sharingthecare.com](http://www.sharingthecare.com)  
866-776-3700

**Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PhRMA):** The Helping Patients program brings together pharmaceutical companies, doctors, patient advocacy organizations and civic groups to help low-income, uninsured patients get free, or nearly free, brand-name medicines. This site provides access to more than 275 public and private assistance companies, including more than 150 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.

[www.phrma.org](http://www.phrma.org)  
202-835-3400

**Wal-Mart:** Wal-Mart offers more than 300 different generics available for \$4 per prescription fill or refill (up to a 30-day supply). Patients can get these prescription drug savings whether or not they have any prescription drug coverage through their company, under Medicare or any other plan. The program is available at all Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Neighborhood Market pharmacies.

[www.walmart.com/pharmacy](http://www.walmart.com/pharmacy)

## Rehabilitation

It is important to follow-up on recommendations to continue your child's outpatient medical therapy after leaving the hospital. It is also important to consider related therapy services offered through your child's public school system. These school therapies are not the same as outpatient therapies, but are additional services in the school environment.

Meet with the principal, counselor or lead teacher for special education to discuss support services and related therapy services your child needs to transition back to school. Evaluations are required to determine if your child is eligible for both outpatient therapy and related school therapy services.

### **Questions to ask:**

- How do I know if my child needs rehabilitation?
- How do I find a specialist who knows how to treat my child's injury?
- What rehabilitation services (physical, occupational, speech therapy, cognitive therapy, assistive technology and neuropsychological assessments) are available to my child in the community?

## Recreation— Community Activities and Respite for Parents

All children and teenagers need to rejoin group activities to rebuild their relationships. Modifications for safety or communication may be needed.

Do not forget to contact your church and your local parks and recreation departments for activities. Many organizations find and/or provide appropriate activities for children and teenagers with limitations. Remember that getting your child involved in activities, will give you a needed respite.

### **Questions to ask:**

- How do I find social activities for my child?
- How do I find modified sports activities for my child?
- How do I arrange for some rest and relaxation time for me?

**American Association of Adapted Sports:** This organization offers interscholastic, adapted sports with the Georgia High School Association.

www.adaptedsports.org  
945 North Indian Creek Drive, Clarkston, GA 30021-2221  
404-294-0070

**Brain Injury Association of Georgia:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 1.

www.braininjurygeorgia.org  
1441 Clifton Road NE, Suite 114-A, Atlanta, GA 30322-1062  
404-712-5504

**Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 11.

www.focus-ga.org  
3825 Presidential Parkway, Suite 103, Atlanta, GA 30340-3794  
770-234-9111

**Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 9.

www.glrs.org  
Atlanta Branch, 2415-C North Druid Hills Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-3210  
678-676-2400

**Parent to Parent of Georgia:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 3. A list of regional offices is available on the Web site.

www.parenttoparentofga.org  
3805 Presidential Parkway, Suite 207, Atlanta, GA 30340-3720  
770-451-5484 or 800-229-2038

### **Activity/camp providers:**

**Blaze Sports Program; Competitive Sports and Camps:** www.blazesports.com

**Boys and Girls Clubs of America:** www.bgca.org

**Special Olympics of Georgia:** www.specialolympics.org

**Stay Focused; Scuba Certifies Kids with Disabilities:** www.stay-focused.org

**Victory Junction; Overnight Camps:** www.victoryjunction.org

**Wheelchair Sports USA; Wheelchair Junior Sports Ages 5 to 18:** www.wsusa.org

**YMCA of Georgia Inc; More than 200 Clubs in Georgia:** www.ymcaga.org

# Transition to Adulthood and Employment

Your child may benefit from support and training when looking for employment. In the school system, these services are called transition services. There are several agencies that provide help for your child. When your child graduates from high school, job training skills and support are available through government agency programs.

## **Questions to ask:**

- How do I plan for my child’s life after high school or college?
- How do I get assistance for my teenager who is seeking employment?

**Benefits Navigator:** This service provides comprehensive benefits counseling to people (ages 14 to 65, including transitional teenagers) who are eligible for Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to understand the impact working (earning income) will have on their benefits.

[www.bpaoga.com](http://www.bpaoga.com)

Shepherd Center, 2020 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30309-1426

Sally Atwell: 404-350-7589; Curtis Rogers: 404-350-7598 or 866-772-2726

**Children’s Medical Services (CMS):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 4. There are 18 district offices throughout the state and a list of contact numbers is available.

[www.health.state.ga.us/programs/cms](http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/cms)

404-657-2726

**Communities in Schools—Performance Learning Centers (division of Department of Labor under Workforce Investment Act):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 7. There are 27 schools in Georgia.

[www.cisga.org](http://www.cisga.org)

600 West Peachtree St., Suite 1200, Atlanta, GA 30308-3607

404-888-5784 or 800-838-5784

**Georgia Department of Labor/Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Tools for Life Program:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 8.

[www.vocrehabga.org](http://www.vocrehabga.org)

800-255-0135

**Georgia Association of Higher Education and Disabilities (Postsecondary Education Support):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 8. Names, locations and contact numbers needed to gain information on specific colleges in each region are available.

[www.ga-ahead.org](http://www.ga-ahead.org)

**Georgia Department of Education (DOE):** For a full program description, please refer to Page 8.

[www.doe.k12.ga.us](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us)

2066 Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334-9050

404-656-2800

**Wrightslaw:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 9.

[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)

## Transportation— Driver Evaluations and Vehicle Adaptations

Arrange a driver evaluation before permitting your teenager to drive. Contact your local hospital or rehabilitation facility to find an organization that can do a driver evaluation. Also, do not overlook public transportation; there are many options for local travel.

Should your vehicle need to be adapted for wheelchair transport, there are organizations that can make the adaptation or find a more appropriate vehicle.

### **Questions to ask:**

- Where can I find driver evaluation for my teenage driver?
- Why do I need to arrange a driver evaluation?
- How do I get adaptations made to my vehicle?
- Where can I find a van with needed adaptations?

**Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Inc. (FODAC) Tools for Life:** For a full program description, please refer to Page 5.

www.fodac.org  
4900 Lewis Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30083-1104  
770-491-9014

**Georgia Department of Transportation:** This agency provides information about Georgia's transit system.

www.dot.state.ga.us  
2 Capitol Square, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334-9053  
404-656-5267

**National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA):** NMEDA, a nonprofit trade association of mobility equipment dealers, driver rehabilitation specialists and other professionals, helps people with disabilities to drive or be transported in vehicles modified with mobility equipment. The Quality Assurance Program (QAP) is the recognized accreditation program for the mobility equipment industry.

www.nmeda.org  
3327 West Bears Ave., Tampa, FL 33618-2100  
800-833-0427

**Variety the Children's Charity (Kids on the Go Program):** This Program provides equipment to enable children to participate in their communities. Variety helps children with disabilities age 21 or younger by providing enabling equipment when it cannot be obtained from any other source. Parents need to complete an application.

www.usvariety.org  
5920 Roswell Road, Suite C-103, Atlanta, GA 30328-4913  
404-358-1321





