

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 (ARRA)
Georgia Department of Human Services
Stimulus Initiatives

AGING SERVICES

Meals for Older Georgians

Budget: \$2.4M

- Provides meals to older adults who live at home (e.g., Meals-On-Wheels) or receive meals at a senior center
 - Targets three groups: 1), consumers at high risk for Nursing Home Placement that are not yet Medicaid eligible; 2), consumers who have recently been discharged from hospitals, rehab centers and nursing homes for time limited assistance if their potential for recovery is high; and, 3) consumers who meet the program criteria but have not yet been approved for Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income
- Services are time limited and will be available until care needs become too great to be managed at home
- Program is delivered through Georgia's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)

For more information contact: Jamie Cramer, jacramer@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-657-5322

Employment for Older Georgians

Budget: \$500K

- Provides training and job placement for 44-88 Georgians – connecting them to the job market
- Individuals can participate in the program up to two years
- Program is delivered through Georgia's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)

For more information contact: Jamie Cramer, jacramer@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-657-5322

FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

Eligibility Expansion

Child Care Development Fund

Budget: \$23.7M

- Provides time-limited child care subsidies for parents who are unemployed or underemployed and do not qualify for the existing Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program
 - To receive the child care subsidy, parent(s) must meet the following requirements:
 - Participate in approved educational and job training or searching activities
 - Currently receiving Medicaid and/or Food Stamps and Unemployment Insurance
 - Currently unemployed or underemployed working less than 21 hours per week or making 200% under the poverty level (e.g. Monthly household income for two = \$2429.00; for three = \$3,052.00; for four = \$3,675)

For more information contact Yvonne Davenport, yadavenp@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-2239

Quality Improvements

Budget: \$18.1M

Child Care Development Fund

Partnership with Dept. of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)

Teacher Preparation and Training

- Provide funding for teacher credentials such as a Child Development Associates (CDA), Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) and Technical College Diploma (TCD)
- Develop and expand new on-line training modules and podcasts for early care and learning teachers
- Train 80 DECAL, resource and referral and collegiate teaching professionals on the Program for Infant/Toddler Care

Community Mini-Grants

- Fund mini grants for community organizations and businesses to improve the quality of care for children (e.g., children aging out of foster care)
 - Grants to pay for self-study materials, national accreditation application and assessment fees, or materials and equipment required by accreditation standards
- Provide equipment replacement funding for Pre-K classrooms

For more information contact Stacy Moore, Stacey.Moore@DECAL.ga.gov, 404-656-0239 or Yvonne Davenport, yadavenp@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-2239

Refinancing

Budget: \$38M

Child Care Development Fund

- Utilize time-limited ARRA funds to maximize the number of children who can receive child care and clear the waiting list of 3,300 children through September 30, 2010 by using a funds source swap approach to preserve annual grant funds

For more information contact Yvonne Davenport, yadavenp@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-2239

Operational Upgrades

Budget: \$300K

Child Care Development Fund

- Create an outside audit function to monitor fund usage and performance required by ARRA standards

For more information contact Yvonne Davenport, yadavenp@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-2239

Information System Upgrades

Budget: \$1.57M

Child Care Development Fund

- Expand the COMPASS Online Screening Referral and Application portal to allow parents to apply for child care online
- Develop an electronic document management system that allows employees to manage and store customer records involving child care eligibility
 - Begins the process of shifting DHS from paper documentation to electronic case records for DHS customers

Community Service Block Grant**Budget: \$26.8M**

- Implement a contracts monitoring/management strategy at the state and local level
- Provide needs-based referrals that assist underserved, impoverished and/or low-income children and families by working through a network of community action agencies in Georgia
 - Program to help community organizations meet their employment and housing goals (e.g., young adults exiting foster care)
 - Internal DFCS staff will monitor for program performance, ARRA compliance, and program outcomes

For more information contact Yvonne Davenport, yadavenp@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-2239

**Food Stamps – Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
Administrative Support****Budget: \$10.3M**

- Retain 252 caseworker jobs to maintain food stamp program service delivery and address caseload growth (these jobs would have been eliminated due to budget cuts in FY10)

For more information contact Yvonne Davenport, yadavenp@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-2239

**Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
Food and Administrative Support****Budget: \$4.0M**

- Provide families in economic hardship with short-term emergency food assistance
- Provide funds to community action agencies and food banks to distribute short-term emergency food assistance to needy families throughout the state of Georgia

For more information contact Yvonne Davenport, yadavenp@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-2239

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Emergency Fund****Budget: \$3.2M**

- Develop subsidized employment programs that support critical job creation for the following categories of unemployed/underemployed lower-skilled workers
 - TANF applicants and recipients
 - Participants in the Georgia Fatherhood Program (GFP) through the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS)

For more information contact Yvonne Davenport, yadavenp@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-2239

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**Fatherhood Program - (Non-Custodial Parent Support)****Budget: \$600K**

- Provide job support, training and placement for 3,000 non-custodial parents
 - Target non-custodial parents with barriers that prevent them from getting a job (e.g., previously incarcerated and/or currently unemployed)
 - Provide inmates with paternity testing, visitation and employment opportunities

- Provide non-custodial parents paternity/legitimation, access and visitation services for them and their child(ren)

For more information contact Gary Driggers, rgdrigge@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-0992.

Call Center Upgrades

Budget: \$1.86M

- Expand the Call Center hours of operations to increase responsiveness and reduce caller volume and office walk-ins
- Enhance the automated self-service feature so customers can access the most current information on their case 24/7 (i.e., arrears balance, enforcement actions, etc.)

For more information contact Gary Driggers, rgdrigge@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-0992.

Specialized Collections Unit

Budget: \$700K

- Target non custodial parents who have not made payments in over three years
- Provide aggressive case management to locate, investigate and monitor financial transactions of those non custodial parents who have not paid child support in over three years
- Hire time-limited staff and contractors to conduct the specialized services

For more information contact Gary Driggers, rgdrigge@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-0992.

Information System Upgrades

Budget: \$4.0M

- Upgrade the current Child Support STAR\$ data management system to improve internal reporting accuracy and efficiency
- Build a state-of-the-art data warehouse system for DHS starting with Child Support
- Invest in a sourcing assessment and advisory service that will validate the approach for a system replacement in the future

For more information contact Gary Driggers, rgdrigge@dhr.state.ga.us, 404-463-0992.