



Georgia Pathways to Coverage

Provider Frequently Asked Questions

Program Overview

Q. What is Pathways?

A. Georgia Pathways to Coverage™, or Pathways, is a new program to help low-income Georgians qualify for Medicaid who otherwise would not qualify for traditional Medicaid.

Q. When can potential members apply for the program?

A. Georgia residents can apply for the program starting on July 1, 2023. Individuals can apply on or after that date. Coverage will start on the 1st of the month after an individual gets approved. If you apply in July and get approved in August, your coverage will start September 1.

Q. How does the Georgia Pathways to Coverage Program impact Katie Beckett?

A. Katie Beckett is not impacted by the Georgia Pathways to Coverage Program.

Provider Participation

Q. Do providers need a different contract to accept Georgia Pathways to Coverage members?

A. Pathways providers are Medicaid providers. If you are already contracted with CareSource to see Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids® members, you do not need to request a new contract.

Q. Can providers opt out of Georgia Pathways to Coverage?

A. Pathways providers are Medicaid providers. If a provider is accepting new patients, the provider will treat a Pathways member the same as a Medicaid member.

Eligibility

Q. How do individuals apply for this program?

A. Potential members can apply for Georgia Pathways starting on July 1, 2023. The easiest way to apply is online at gateway.ga.gov.

They can also apply:

- In-person at your local Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) office. To find the location and business hours for a DFCS office, visit: dfcs.ga.gov/locations.

- By mail to your local DFCS office.
- By phone at 1-877-423-4746 or 711 for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking.

Q. Who is eligible to apply for this program?

A. To be eligible for Pathways, an individual must:

- Be a Georgia resident
- Be a U.S. citizen or legally residing non-citizen
- Be between 19 and 64 years of age
- Have a household income of up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Prove that you are doing at least 80 hours of qualifying activities per month
- Not qualify for any other type of Medicaid
- Not be incarcerated

Q. What is the income threshold to qualify for Georgia Pathways to Coverage?

A. In order to qualify for Georgia Pathways to Coverage, an individual must have an income up to 100% of the FPL. Income is calculated using the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology, which is currently used in the State to determine other classes of Medicaid. Dollar amounts for the federal poverty level are updated annually and available [here](#).

An individual must provide documentation for verification of income at the time of application in order to determine if the individual meets the financial eligibility requirements for Georgia Pathways to Coverage.

Income verification will be determined prior to enrollment by the State's eligibility system and is not determined by CareSource.

Q. When does Pathways coverage begin?

A. Coverage in Georgia Pathways to Coverage and the member's CMO enrollment is prospective only and begins the first day of the month following the determination of eligibility. For example, if a member is determined eligible on July 20, 2023, the effective date of coverages begins August 1, 2023.

Q. Can a member be retroactively covered for Georgia Pathways to Coverage?

A. No retroactive coverage or assistance in paying prior months' medical bills will be provided to individuals enrolling in Georgia Pathways to Coverage. There are limited circumstances in which retroactive coverage is allowable, once a member is already enrolled in Georgia Pathways to Coverage.

If a member appeals an adverse action, requests a hearing, and requests a continuation of benefits, retroactive coverage will be allowable via a manual override through the Gateway Worker Portal.

Q. How will GAMMIS show a member's eligibility?

A. Members will only show as active or inactive. In terms of suspension and termination, that will look the same in GAMMIS. Members who fail to meet qualifying activities requirements will be described as "inactive."

Qualifying Activities

Q. What counts as a qualifying activity?

A. Qualifying activities include:

- Full-time or part-time employment
- On-the-job training
- Job readiness assistance programs
- Community service
- Vocational educational training
- Enrollment in the Vocational Rehabilitation program of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)
- Higher education

Q. What must members do to prove their qualifying activities?

A. Members must report their hours by the 17th of each month. For instance, a member would report their January hours by February 17th to stay covered in March. If they do not report their hours by the 17th of February, their coverage will stop February 28 and they will not be covered for March. Until you report 80 hours of Qualifying Activities in a month, you will not have coverage through Georgia Pathways. Qualifying Activity requirements will only apply to Pathways and not those who are enrolled under the traditional Medicaid program.

The easiest way to report hours each month is online at gateway.ga.gov through 'Report My Change'. Members can also upload a qualifying activity form and supporting documents such as pay stubs or transcripts.

Members can also report your hours each month:

- **In-person** at your local Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) office. To find the location and business hours for a DFCS office, visit: dfcs.ga.gov/locations.
- **By mail** to your local DFCS office.
- **By phone** at 1-877-423-4746 or 711 for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking.

Q. What about people who cannot engage in qualifying activities during the initial application period?

A. To receive coverage, an individual must complete 80 hours of qualifying activities each month. If you have a disability, you can request a Reasonable Modification like a referral to GVRA or the option for extra time to do your 80 hours.

Q. What happens if a member is unable to complete all their hours?

A. Members can request up to 120 Good Cause Exception hours the same way they report their Qualifying Activities each month including:

- **Online at gateway.ga.gov**
- In-person at your local Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) office. To find the location and business hours for a DFCS office, visit: dfcs.ga.gov/locations.
- By mail to your local DFCS office.
- By phone at 1-877-423-4746 or 711 for those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking.

Those who request a Good Cause Exception over the phone can provide documentation of a valid reason online, via mail, or in person at a DFCS office.

Examples of Good Cause Exceptions include:

- Family emergency or life event
- Birth, adoption, foster placement, or death of an immediate family member
- Temporary illness/short term injury
- Serious illness or hospitalization of yourself, or immediate family member
- Natural or human-caused disaster
- Temporary homelessness
- COVID-19 illness or exposure

If there is a different reason for not completing 80 hours of qualifying activities, the member should select “Other.” They can support their reason for requesting a Good Cause Exception the same way they submit their proof of Qualifying Activities.

Covered Services

Q. Will Georgia Pathways to Coverage members be able to receive the same benefits as Medicaid members?

A. Yes, with the exception of non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT), Georgia Pathways to Coverage members will receive essentially the same services Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids® members would receive. Members ages 19 and 20 have access to all state plan services under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT).

Please also note that while Pathways to Coverage only covers dental services for 19–20-year-olds with EPSDT, CareSource provides these same benefits as a value-add to adult Pathways members 21 years and older. All Pathways members with CareSource will have the same dental benefits as traditional Medicaid members.

Payments and Billing

Q. Can a patient be billed with this plan?

A. No, Pathways members should be treated the same as any other Medicaid member and should not be billed for services rendered.

Q. Do members have copayment responsibilities?

A. No, Pathway members do not have copayments at this time for covered services they receive while enrolled in Pathways.

For More Information about Georgia Pathways

Visit <https://dch.georgia.gov/georgiapathways>

Appendix A - Qualifying Activities

Qualifying Activity	Definition
Unsubsidized employment	Full or part-time employment in the public or private sector that is not subsidized by a public program.
Subsidized private sector employment	Employment in the private sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from public funds to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing an individual.
Subsidized public sector employment	Employment in the public sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from public funds to offset some or all of the wages and costs of employing an individual.
On-the-job training	Training in the public or private sector that is given to a paid employee while he or she is engaged in productive work, and that provides knowledge and skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job.
Job Readiness	Activities directly related to the preparation for employment, including life-skills training, GED class time, resume building, and habilitation or rehabilitation activities, including substance use disorder treatment. Rehabilitation activities must be determined to be necessary and documented by a qualified medical professional.
Community Service	Structured programs and embedded activities in which the member performs work for the direct benefit of the community under the auspices of public or nonprofit organizations. Approved community service programs are limited to projects that serve a useful community purpose in fields such as health, social service, environmental protection, education, urban and rural redevelopment, welfare, recreation, public facilities, public safety, and childcare.
Vocational Educational Training	Organized educational programs that are directly related to the preparation of individuals for employment in current or emerging occupations. A full-time academic workload will meet the requirements for 80 hours of qualifying activities in the month. An individual with a current course-load between 6 and 11 credit hours will be granted 40 hours per month of a qualifying activity. An individual with a current course-load between 1 and 5 credit hours will be granted 20 hours per month of a qualifying activity. Participation in vocational educational training is limited to 12 months in a member's lifetime, unless a member is enrolled in vocational education for a highly sought-after trade through the Technical College System of Georgia

Qualifying Activity	Definition
	<p>High Demand Career Initiative. In this instance, vocational educational training may count as a qualifying activity for the duration of the vocational education program.</p> <p>Technical College System of Georgia High Demand Career Initiative:</p> <p>High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) was launched in 2014. The HDCI Occupations List has been compiled using a combination of labor market data, employer feedback, and collaboration with strategic partners. This list represents the occupations in each of Georgia's key industries that are in-demand, pay an above-average entry-level wage, and are considered strong options for pursuing a successful career in Georgia. These occupations are critical to the success of these industries and the health of Georgia's economy. For the latest HDCI Occupations List, access this webpage on the Technical College System of Georgia website.</p>
Enrollment in an Institution of Higher Education	<p>Enrolled in and earning course credit at a college, university, or other institution of higher learning. A full-time academic workload of at least 11.5 credit hours will meet the requirements for 80 hours of qualifying activities in the month. An individual with a current course-load between 5.50 and 11.49 credit hours will be granted 40 hours per month of a qualifying activity. An individual with a current course-load between 0.011 and 5.49 credit hours will be granted 20 hours per month of a qualifying activity. The student's workload may include any combination of courses, work, research, or special studies that the institution considers contributing to the individual's full-time status.</p>
Enrollment and active engagement in the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) Vocational Rehabilitation program	<p>Enrolled in and compliant with the requirements of the GVRA Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. This includes individuals who have been newly accepted into the GVRA VR program and whose Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) is under development, or those compliant with the terms of their IPE once finalized. Both satisfy the requirements for 80 hours of qualifying activities in the month.</p>

Appendix B - Qualifying Activity Verification Sources

Qualifying Activity	Verification Source
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay stubs • Written statement from source/employer • Gross earnings (if hourly pay is known) • Timesheet
Self-employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed Standardized Work/Participation Calendar from member indicating hours engaged (<i>Member may fill in a standardized worksheet template indicating total weekly hours worked per client/activity; OR submit a snapshot of their actual work calendar from the reporting month (e.g., Photo of ledger of appointments or Screenshot of calendar with work activities)</i>)
On-the-job training (OJT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement from supervisor sponsoring the OJT
Job Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed statement from Recognized Agency or Community Resource indicating hours engaged. (<i>Recognized agencies include: Georgia Department of Labor Career Center, Workforce Development Board, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Goodwill, and other agencies as authorized by the State</i>) • Signed statement from habilitation/rehabilitation institution verifying hours in last four weeks
Community Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed Standardized Work/Participation Calendar • Signed statement on organization letterhead from supervisor verifying hours
Vocational Educational Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official course enrollment for the current semester from the Office of the Registrar • Copy of class schedule for the current semester • Enrollment status through an interface (if available and if the student has consented to have their enrollment information shared with the Department of Human Services)
Enrollment in an Institution of Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official course enrollment for the current semester from the Office of the Registrar • Copy of class schedule for the current semester • Enrollment status through an interface (if available and if the student has consented to have their enrollment information shared with the Department of Human Services)
Enrollment and active engagement in the GVRA Vocational Rehabilitation program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed statement from GVRA dated within four weeks of Georgia Pathways to Coverage application submission by the individual

Qualifying Activity	Verification Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment letter dated within four weeks of Georgia Pathways to Coverage application submission by the individual • Current active client status through GVRA interface (if available)

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