

# Georgia Department of Human Resources

The Georgia Department of Human Resources is responsible for the delivery of health and social services. The department is the largest agency in state government and serves all Georgia citizens through regulatory inspection, direct service and financial assistance programs. The 20,000 employees (12,000 state and 8,000 county employees) manage over 100 programs in 1,000 locations and in all 159 counties. About 42 percent of these employees are in county family and children services; another 40 percent are employed at the eight regional hospitals and one mental retardation facility.

Local boards of health and regional boards for mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services manage programs throughout the state.

DHR's budget for Fiscal Year 2003 is \$2.6 billion, which includes \$1.4 billion in state funds. Eighty-nine percent of this funding is used to provide direct services for children, elderly and disabled people; for county family and children services, public health and mental health operations; for state mental hospitals and for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits. DHR's share of the total state appropriation is 9.3 percent.

The mission of the Department of Human Resources is, in partnership with others, to effectively deliver compassionate, innovative, and accountable services to individuals, families and communities.

The department's vision is Georgians living safe, healthy and self-reliant lives.

The department's four divisions are Aging Services; Public Health; Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse (to become Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases on July 1, 2002); and Family and Children Services. The department also includes the Office of Regulatory Services, the Office of Child Support Enforcement, and the Office of Adoptions.

The department was created by the Georgia General Assembly in the Governmental Reorganization Act of 1972. The Act consolidated the Department of Public Health and the Department of Family and Children Services and other state human services programs. In that same year, the Board of Human Resources established an integrated service delivery system. This enables Georgians to receive services that are administered in the communities where they live.

- The Commissioner of Human Resources is appointed by, and accountable to, the State's Board of Human Resources. The 15-member board is appointed by the Governor to provide general oversight of the agency's activities by establishing policy, approving agency goals and objectives, and other appropriate activities.

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Georgia Department of Human Resources  
Office of Communications  
[www.dhr.georgia.gov](http://www.dhr.georgia.gov)  
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