



# Georgia Department of Human Resources

The Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) 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 19,000 employees manage over 80 programs in all 159 counties. About 39 percent of these employees are in county family and children services offices; a similar percentage work at state hospitals.

Local boards of health and regional boards for mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases manage programs throughout the state.

DHR's budget for Fiscal Year 2006 is \$2.8 billion, which includes \$1.4 billion in state funds. Ninety 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 7.7 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, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases; and Family and Children Services. The department also includes the Office of Regulatory Services and the Office of Child Support Enforcement.

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 system 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 17-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.