



**CLYDE L. REESE, III, Esq.**  
**COMMISSIONER**

**APPLY FOR CHILDCARE AT:**  
[www.compass.ga.gov](http://www.compass.ga.gov)

#### **DFCS LEADERSHIP:**

**Ron Scroggy**  
Division Director

**Kathy Herren**  
Deputy Director

**David Kelley**  
Field Operations Director

# **CHILDCARE AND PARENT SERVICES PROGRAM**

## **Subsidized Childcare in Georgia**

### **HOW CAN A FAMILY APPLY FOR CHILD CARE?**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) assists qualifying families with the costs of childcare through the Childcare and Parent Services Program (CAPS). Local county Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) offices determine the eligibility for CAPS. All child care applications can be made online at [www.compass.ga.gov](http://www.compass.ga.gov).

### **WHO QUALIFIES FOR CHILDCARE?**

Parents or guardians who have a limited income and who are also working, attending school, or are in job training may qualify for subsidized childcare. Additionally, the CAPS program offers support to many families as they transition from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) to self-sufficiency.

Children are eligible for CAPS up to age 13, or up to age 18 if they have special needs or have court ordered supervision.

### **CAN FAMILIES CHOOSE THEIR OWN CHILDCARE PROVIDER?**

Eligible families choose their own childcare providers. They may choose from centers or homes that are licensed by the state; centers that are exempt from licensing by state law (such as school systems providing after-school care); family childcare home providers who are registered with the state's child care licensing agency Bright From the Start: Georgia Department of Early and Learning; or from informal providers (such as a relative or neighbor.)

### **HOW MUCH ASSISTANCE IS OFFERED?**

Most parents or guardians pay a co-payment or family fee based on the family's income, size, and the number of children enrolled in the CAPS program. The remainder is paid by the CAPS program to the childcare provider - up to a maximum rate. The rate is based on the type of care, the age of the child and location of the provider. The average monthly payment by CAPS is \$268 per child.

### **2011 STATISTICS:**

In SFY 2011, the monthly average number of children receiving subsidized childcare was approximately 65,000.

Next to housing and food, childcare costs are the third largest expense for working families. For young children, the weekly cost of childcare can exceed \$95.

The CAPS program collaborates with agencies and individuals to enhance the quality and increase the supply of childcare for children in Georgia.

Childcare assistance often provides a necessary support for low-income families to continue working.