

# Georgia CHIP Fact Sheet

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NATIONAL ACADEMY  
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The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was created in 1997 to provide quality health coverage for children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but are unable to afford coverage in the private market. The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009 strengthened the program through increased federal funding, new enrollment and outreach opportunities, and other provisions. In addition, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) extended CHIP funding through federal fiscal year (FY) 2015 and required states to maintain eligibility levels through 2019. The ACA also required states to use the Modified Adjusted Gross Income methodology, which seeks to standardize the calculation of income across insurance affordability programs, including Medicaid, CHIP and the exchanges. States can continue to move forward in covering eligible children by taking advantage of the policies put in place by CHIPRA and the ACA. This fact sheet provides an overview of Georgia's CHIP program.<sup>1</sup>



**Name of State's CHIP Program:** [PeachCare for Kids®](#) operates as a separate CHIP program.

**Number of Children Covered:** In 2011, 248,536 children were covered by PeachCare for Kids®.

**Participation Rate:** 82.2% of eligible children in Georgia participated in either Medicaid or PeachCare for Kids® in 2009. The national average was nearly 85% in 2009.<sup>2</sup>

**Federal CHIP Match Rate:** 76.31% in FY 2012.<sup>3</sup>

**Eligibility:** 2011 income eligibility levels for Georgia CHIP are in the table below.

Income Eligibility Levels for CHIP in Georgia (by Age Group) in 2011			
Conception to birth	Younger than age one	Ages one to five	Ages six to 18
Up to 235% FPL	186% to 235% FPL	134% FPL to 235% FPL	101% FPL to 235% FPL

**Dependent Coverage of Public Employees:** Georgia does cover the dependent children of state employees. CHIPRA provided states the option to remove the five-year waiting period for lawfully residing children.<sup>4</sup>

**Waiting Period Requirement:** Georgia requires children to be uninsured for six months before enrolling in CHIP coverage. Certain exceptions apply.

**Removed Five-Year Waiting Period for Lawfully Residing Children:** Georgia has not removed this requirement. CHIPRA provided states the option to remove the five-year waiting period for lawfully residing children.<sup>4</sup>

**Buy-in Option:** Georgia does not have a buy-in option. States can allow families with incomes that exceed the upper income eligibility limit to pay the full cost to purchase coverage for their uninsured children through CHIP.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, this fact sheet uses 2011 information reported by the state to the CHIP Annual Reporting Template System.

<sup>2</sup> The most recent data is from 2009. Genevieve Kenney et al., "Gains for Children: Increased Participation in Medicaid and CHIP in 2009." Washington, DC: Urban Institute, August 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Financial Participation in State Assistance Expenditures; Federal Matching Shares for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and Aid to Needy Aged, Blind, or Disabled Persons for October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

<sup>4</sup> Martha Heberlein et al., *Performing Under Pressure: Annual Findings of a 50-State Survey of Eligibility, Enrollment, Renewal, and Cost-Sharing Policies in Medicaid and CHIP, 2011-2012*, (Washington, DC: Kaiser Family Foundation, 2012), 32.

# State CHIP Fact Sheet—Georgia

**Efforts to Simplify Enrollment and Renewals:** To reduce barriers to enrollment and renewal in CHIP, states have the option to implement a range of strategies to streamline these processes. The table below describes some of these strategies, specifically those that are considered for CHIPRA performance bonuses. States that have implemented some of the strategies in their Medicaid and/or CHIP programs may qualify for a CHIPRA performance bonus.

Efforts for Simplifying Enrollment and Renewal in CHIP in Georgia (as of Dec. 31, 2011)		
Strategy	Explanation	Used in CHIP
Presumptive eligibility	The state allows certain entities to make a preliminary determination and temporarily enroll children in the program who appear to be eligible, pending a full determination of eligibility.	No
No asset test	The state has eliminated the asset or resource test requirement.	Yes
No in-person interview	The state does not require an in-person interview as part of the application or renewal process.	Yes
Use joint application and renewal forms for Medicaid and CHIP	The state uses the same or interchangeable application and renewal forms for establishing and renewing eligibility.	Yes, joint application. No, renewal forms.
Automatic/Administrative renewal	The state uses administrative redetermination (the provision of a pre-populated form with eligibility information along with a notice indicating that eligibility will be continued) or ex parte redetermination (the state renews eligibility based on information contained in the applicant's file or based on other information made available to the state) to renew coverage.	No
Continuous eligibility for 12 months	The state allows children to retain coverage for 12 months, regardless of whether their family income changes during that time period.	No
Express Lane Eligibility	The state uses eligibility determinations from other public programs to determine if a child is eligible.	Yes, with WIC
Premium Assistance	The state uses CHIP funds to subsidize the cost of private health insurance coverage for children eligible for the program.	Yes

**CHIPRA Performance Bonus:** CHIPRA established a performance bonus fund to provide additional federal funding to states that have implemented at least five of the eight enrollment and renewal procedures described above in their Medicaid and/or CHIP programs, and that have achieved a targeted increase in enrollment of children in Medicaid. In 2011, Georgia qualified for a performance bonus for the first time and received nearly \$5 million.<sup>5</sup>

## Cost Sharing Requirements:

Premiums	Deductible	Copayments/Coinsurance
Maximums range from: \$10 - \$44 for families earning between 100% - 170% FPL; \$24 - \$56 for families earning between 171% - 200% FPL; \$29 - \$70 for families earning between 201% - 235% FPL	No	No

## Benefits and Delivery System:

- **Same delivery system or provider networks used in Medicaid and CHIP:** Yes
- **Changes in benefits in 2011:** No

<sup>5</sup> InsureKidsNow.gov. "CHIPRA Performance Bonuses: A History (FY 2009 – FY 2011)." [www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/eligibility/performance\\_bonuses.html](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/eligibility/performance_bonuses.html).