



Georgia Benefits
Support

GEORGIA · QUICK-START GUIDE · REVIEWED OCTOBER 2026

Katie Beckett Medicaid

A practical first-step guide for Georgia families raising a child
with significant disabilities or medical needs.

Start here

Katie Beckett may provide Medicaid to certain children who live at home when family income would otherwise prevent eligibility. Approval depends on disability and level-of-care rules — not a diagnosis alone.

Use this guide to screen the basics, organize records, apply, and follow the case.

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1 Screen the basics

Katie Beckett Quick-Start Guide

Eligibility has five essential gates

Georgia's TEFRA/Katie Beckett program is designed for certain children with disabilities who live at home. Family income may be disregarded, but the child still must satisfy the program's medical, care, cost, and other Medicaid requirements.

GATE 1

Age and living arrangement

The child is 18 years old or younger and lives at home rather than in an institution.

GATE 2

Federal disability standard

The child meets the federal criteria for disability. A diagnosis by itself does not establish this.

GATE 3

Institutional level of care

The child requires the level of care provided in a hospital, skilled-nursing facility, or intermediate-care facility.

GATE 4

Appropriate care at home

The child's needs can be safely and appropriately met in the home.

GATE 5

Cost and other rules

Estimated Medicaid care costs at home do not exceed the estimated institutional cost, and other basic and financial Medicaid requirements are met.

WHAT THIS MEANS

Document needs, not labels

Show what help the child needs, how often, what happens without it, and why that care keeps the child safe at home.

Do not confuse Katie Beckett with a Medicaid waiver slot. Katie Beckett is a Medicaid eligibility pathway. Services such as NOW, COMP, or GAPP have separate eligibility and service-authorization rules.

Best first move

If regular Medicaid was denied or seems unavailable because of household income, ask specifically to be screened for TEFRA/Katie Beckett.

Official source: Georgia Medicaid – TEFRA/Katie Beckett program

2 Apply

Save proof of every step

Apply first, then build a complete case file

- 1 Start the application. Apply online through Georgia Gateway, request an application from the Centralized Katie Beckett Medicaid Team at 678-248-7449, or ask the child's county Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) office.
- 2 Submit the signed application. Georgia Medicaid says a completed signed application may go to the centralized team, a local DFCS office, or through the other application channels listed on the official program page. Save the date, confirmation, and a full copy.
- 3 Complete the medical review materials. Work with the child's treating professionals on the current forms and supporting records requested for disability, level of care, home care, and cost-effectiveness review.
- 4 Respond to every request. Read each notice fully, note its deadline, send only through an accepted channel, and keep proof of submission.

Application channels

Online: gateway.ga.gov

Central team phone:
678-248-7449

Fax: 678-248-7459

Physical address:
2211 Beaver Ruin Road, Suite 150
Norcross, GA 30071

Avoid an address delay

Georgia Medicaid says Katie Beckett applications are no longer accepted at the former P.O. Box 172 address. Use the current address or another accepted submission route shown on the official page.

Keep: the signed application, every attachment, upload or fax proof, mailing record, notices, and a call log with dates and names.

Use the portal after the case is entered

The Katie Beckett Online Portal launched April 15, 2026. Once an application or renewal has been entered, DCH says the family receives an email to set up access. The portal can be used to upload documents, see status and checklists, and send secure messages to caseworkers.

Security reminder

Use only the official portal link provided by DCH or the case email. Do not send Social Security numbers or medical records by ordinary email.

Official links: Program page and current forms · Georgia Gateway · Katie Beckett Online Portal

3 Build the evidence

Describe daily care clearly

Strong records explain the care behind the diagnosis

The review focuses on the child's current needs and required level of care. Use records that show what must be done, by whom, how often, and what could happen without that support.

Core medical records

- Current diagnoses and medical history
- Recent specialist and primary-care notes
- Hospital and emergency discharge summaries
- Current medication, treatment, and equipment lists
- Nursing orders, plans of care, and skilled-care instructions
- Therapy orders, plans, and current signed treatment notes

Function and support records

- Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), if applicable
- Psychological or developmental evaluation, if requested or relevant
- Care schedule showing hands-on help, monitoring, and overnight needs
- Descriptions of feeding, mobility, communication, behavior, toileting, and safety support
- Caregiver training and backup-care needs

Give providers a useful prompt

Frequency: How many times per day or week is the task, treatment, monitoring, or intervention needed?

Duration: How long does it take, including setup and recovery?

Skill and supervision: What training, judgment, or hands-on help is required? Can the child perform it safely without assistance?

Risk: What can happen if care is missed, delayed, or performed incorrectly?

Home plan: What services, equipment, and caregiver supports make home care appropriate?

Current forms matter

The official program page lists the Pediatric DMA-6(A), Medical Necessity/Level of Care Statement, and Cost Effectiveness Form. Use the current versions and follow the instructions from DCH. These forms are for medical personnel to interpret.

Before sending: Check that every required signature and date is present, records are readable, names match, and the packet answers the exact request in the notice or checklist.

Official source: Georgia Medicaid – forms and program guidance

4 Follow the case

Track · renew · respond

Approval is not the end of the paperwork

TRACK

Check the portal and mail. Keep your address, phone, and email current. Record each contact and what was requested.

RENEW

Complete every required eligibility renewal, even when the medical level-of-care authorization extends longer.

Medical review change

DCH states that medical level-of-care determinations verified to meet the Katie Beckett standard are authorized for no less than two years. That applies to the medical level-of-care review only; families must still complete other required renewals.

If you receive a request for information

- Write the due date on your calendar immediately.
- Match each requested item to the notice or portal checklist.
- If a record is delayed, contact the caseworker before the deadline and document the conversation.
- Keep proof showing what you sent, when, and through which channel.

If you receive a denial or closure notice

- Read the reason, effective date, and appeal instructions carefully.
- Use the deadline printed on that specific notice; do not assume all deadlines are the same.
- Ask what evidence was missing or what criterion was not met.
- Consider getting legal advice promptly if you need help understanding appeal rights.

Key contacts

Katie Beckett Team	678-248-7449 · Fax 678-248-7459
Georgia Medicaid	877-423-4746 · Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Eastern
Official program page	medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/all-programs/tefrakatie-beckett
Independent help	Georgia Benefits Support · info@georgiabenefitssupport.com

Please note

Georgia Benefits Support is an independent navigation and education service. It is not a government agency or law firm, does not determine eligibility, and cannot guarantee approval. Program rules and forms can change; verify current requirements with DCH and follow your own notice.

Sources reviewed October 2026: Georgia Medicaid TEFR/Katie Beckett program page, application information, forms list, portal announcement, and DCH contact information.