



The Power of the Network

Our vision for Georgia is for all children to be healthy; ready to start and perform better in school; to grow up in stable, self-sufficient families; and to live in strong communities.

Georgia Family Connection is a statewide initiative that cultivates public and private collaboration at the local level. Located in all 159 counties, Georgia Family Connection is the largest statewide network of its kind in the nation.

Collaborative organizations are committed to our mission of improving conditions for at-risk children, families, and communities. They work closely with communities to:

- foster relationships with local partners,
- increase policymakers' awareness of local issues,
- implement proven programs and practices, and
- leverage additional funding to support community plans.

Each collaborative organization convenes partners from various sectors dedicated to promoting the well-being of children and families.

We come together to discuss our visions for our communities, assess the needs in our counties, then decide how our organizations can best work together to meet those needs.

Together we set an agenda that establishes our priorities and allocates resources to achieve results for families and children. We measure results for our work by tracking locally selected indicators of child well-being using Georgia KIDS COUNT data. KIDS COUNT is a state and national effort funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the status of children.

We believe that local decision-making—grounded in reliable data and

best practices—will drive the change we want to see in our communities.

Family Connection, created by the state and private funders in response to Georgia ranking 50th in the nation

in child well-being in the 1991 KIDS COUNT report, develops initiatives to combat child abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy, multiple teen births, and truancy. We also work to keep children and youth in school, and support them

in graduating on time. We believe that empowering ourselves with data, sharing information, and combining our efforts with other counties will strengthen the state as a whole over time.

While Family Connection is dedicated to working at the local level

to build stronger communities, Georgia Family Connection Partnership (GaFCP) is committed to working at the state level to provide support, data, and best practices to the county collaborative organizations and state partners to improve outcomes for children and families. GaFCP, a public-private nonprofit created and funded by the State of Georgia and private foundations, also manages Georgia KIDS COUNT.

There is evidence that we are improving, but we still have work to do. Georgia continues to rank among the bottom 10 states in the nation. Help your community by:

- volunteering and getting involved with your county collaborative organization,
- participating in local planning efforts, and
- becoming an advocate and voice for children and families.

It takes many people at many levels, working together, to effect change in the lives of Georgia's children and families.