Public Benefits in Georgia During COVID-19

Georgia has multiple public benefits programs that provide assistance to low income households. Some of these programs have expanded to help people affected by the coronavirus. See the chart below for a summary of each public benefit program that Georgia provides.

Program	Description	Eligibility	How to Apply
Food Stamps	assists with paying for food for low income households	You must meet income limit. For a family of four, the income limit is $2,311 per month. You must be a US citizen, a legal permanent resident, or a legally present non-citizen. To find food pantries in your area, text FINDFOOD (one word, no space) or COMIDA to 888-976-2232.	Apply online at gateway.ga.gov. or call your local DFCS office
Stimulus Check	provides cash assistance of $1,200 for an individual, $2,400 for a married couple, and an additional $500 per child in your household	You must have filed taxes in 2018 or 2019. If you have not filed for 2018 or 2019, you can still file now to receive a check. If you receive social security, you do not need to file taxes to receive a check.	There is no application process - the IRS will send you a check using information from your 2018 or 2019 taxes
Unemployment	provides weekly checks if you cannot work, your hours are reduced, or you are only temporarily unemployed	You must be a U.S. citizen or have a valid work authorization to work in the U.S. All workers whose jobs are affected by COVID-19, including self-employed workers, should apply for unemployment benefits because there are new programs to help more workers.	Apply online at www.gdol.ga.gov or by telephone by contacting your local career center
Medicaid	provides health insurance to low income households	You must be pregnant, have a disability, have children, or be above 65 years old. You must also meet the income limits. You must be a US citizen, a legal permanent resident, or a legally present non-citizen. Social Security (SSI) recipients are automatically eligible.	Apply online at gateway.ga.gov. or call your local DFCS office
Medicare	provides health insurance to the elderly and people with disabilities	You must be over 65 years old or have a disability.	Apply online at ssa.gov/benefits/medicare or call your local social security office

For more resources, please visit www.georgialegalaid.org/resource/covid-19-resource-list