Major progress

A lot of progress

Some progress

No movement yet

Healthy Communities

Expand Medicaid

Despite beneficial federal financial incentives offered under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the state legislature failed to pass legislation that would fully expand Medicaid eligibility for adults with lower incomes. In July 2023, Governor Kemp launched Pathways to Coverage, but implementation of new funding to low-income families (as opposed to low-income Georgians who were on sound economic footing) made on them yet.

Extend postpartum Medicaid

Georgia received federal approval to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum in October 2022. The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 allowed states like Georgia to make this postpartum Medicaid coverage permanent (rather than a temporary option available for five years as originally offered in ARPA).

End five-year waiting period for lawful permanent residents to access Medicaid

HB 19. The FY24 budget legislation, includes a line item that extends the Medicaid five-year waiting period for lawful permanent residents to access Medicaid.

Invest in mental health and substance abuse treatment

HB 412, a bill that builds upon the momentum of last year’s 5-month extension of the Mental Health Parity Act, failed. The only provision related to cross-agency data-sharing was added to SB 23, and other provisions that previously denied access to benefits for children born while another family member is receiving benefits, failed to pass. The FY2024 budget language in HB 11 does not reflect the passing of this legislation.

Strong Workforce

Fund a broad-based, need-based financial aid program

HB 506 passed but vetoed. In a victory for Gov. Kemp, this legislation would have ensured that a student could receive a comprehensive grant to help them finish their degree. It would have also raised the maximum award per eligible student.

Provide sustainable funding to meet needs of students participating in Dual Enrollment

HB 529, which would have expanded expungement in Georgia, was introduced but did not convene. HB 553, which would have expanded expungement for individuals with a history of low-level offenses, failed. While RFPs were issued to private-schools in the form of vouchers, failed to pass. Several bills that would create an Opportunity Weight for K-12 had been filed, but no movement has been made on them yet.

Educated Youth

Protect existing funding to ensure inequities in school resources are not exacerbated

The FY 2024 budget does not include additional resources for Child Care Services above the Governor’s initial proposal of $1 million. However, the GAP is program was able to serve approximately 10,000 more children than it was able to in the FY 2023 budget.

Update Georgia’s education funding formula to include an Opportunity Weight to reduce inequities in school resources that exist in the form of vouchers, failed. The FY 2024 budget appropriates $13.1 billion for education, which fully funds the Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula for K-12 public education. Additionally, HB 233, which would have funneled millions of additional public dollars intended for public schools to private-schools in the form of vouchers, failed.

Several bills that would create an Opportunity Weight for K-12 had been filed, but no movement has been made on them yet.

Thriving Families

Increase the availability of child care subsidies to serve more students and low-income families

The FY 2024 budget does not include additional resources for Child Care Services above the Governor’s initial proposal of $1 million. However, the GAP’s program was able to serve approximately 10,000 more children than it was able to in the FY 2023 budget.

Pass a state-level Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), or Georgia Work Credit (GWC)

HB 42 and HB 553, providing for a state earned income tax credit (EITC) and child tax credit, were both filed but failed to advance.

Stable, Fair Tax System

Evaluate and trim back tax breaks for profitable corporations that do not deliver on their promise

HB 413, which would have reduced tax breaks for certain corporations, failed to pass. HB 417 was a companion to HB 413, raising the tax on each pack of cigarettes, with exemptions for the tobacco industry and those who are on sound economic footing. It would have also raised the minimum wage per eligible student from $2,500 to $3,500.

Enact a corporate minimum tax

No movement yet.

Increase the state’s tobacco tax

HB 413, which would have reduced tax breaks for certain corporations, failed to pass. HB 417 was a companion to HB 413, raising the tax on each pack of cigarettes, with exemptions for the tobacco industry and those who are on sound economic footing. It would have also raised the minimum wage per eligible student from $2,500 to $3,500.

Modernize the sales tax to cover some services as the economy changes

HB 10, which extends state and local sales taxes to digital goods and services, began in January 2023. In its first year of implementation (FY 2023), state revenues projected the legislation would raise approximately $96 million in new revenues. HB 249 passed but was later vetoed by Gov. Kemp. This legislation would have ensured that a student could receive a comprehensive grant to help them finish their degree. It would have also raised the maximum award per eligible student.

HB 42 and HB 553, providing for a state earned income tax credit (EITC) and child tax credit, were both filed but failed to advance.