



FaithWorks Counseling

Dr. Debbie Harnois
2901 University Avenue, Suite 17
Columbus, GA 31907
706.366.9691
www.FaithWorksCounseling17.com

Georgia Mental Health Resource Guide Adults Over 21 Losing Medicaid Coverage

Effective July 1, 2025, Georgia Medicaid (standard) will no longer pay for outpatient counseling/therapy for adults over age 21. Below are affordable and covered alternatives to continue receiving mental health care.

1. Community Service Boards (CSBs)

Georgia's Community Service Boards (CSBs) provide therapy, psychiatry, and crisis services to adults regardless of Medicaid status.

- How to Access: Call the Georgia Crisis & Access Line (GCAL) at 1-800-715-4225 (available 24/7).
- They will connect you to your local CSB for outpatient services.
- Services may be free or sliding-scale.

👉 Examples of CSBs:

- New Horizons Behavioral Health (Columbus area) – <https://nhbh.org> (706) 596-5500
- View all CSBs: <https://dbhdd.georgia.gov/regions>

2. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

FQHCs provide integrated primary care and mental health with fees based on income.

- Services: Counseling, psychiatry, case management.
- Cost: Sliding-scale, often free for very low-income clients.

👉 Find a Georgia FQHC here: <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>

Examples:

- **Susie E. Allen Health Center** Operated by QUALITY OF LIFE HEALTH SERVICES, INC., 1502 11th Avenue, Phenix City, AL 36867-4905. Phone: 334.560.5393
- **Richards Middle School** Operated by VALLEY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM INC., 2892 Edgewood Road, Columbus, GA 31906-1225. Phone: 706.322.9599.

- **Dorothy Height Elementary School SBHC** Operated by VALLEY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM INC., 1458 Benning Drive, Room 20, Columbus, GA 31903-2200. Phone: 706.322.9599.
- **VHCS Mobile Dental Services** Operated by VALLEY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM INC., 1600 Fort Benning Road, Columbus, GA 31903-2837. Phone: 706.322.9599.

3. Medicare & Disability Options

- Adults with SSI/SSDI may qualify for Medicare, which does cover outpatient therapy.
- Apply for disability benefits at: <https://www.ssa.gov>

4. Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace Plans

- Adults no longer eligible for Medicaid may qualify for subsidized health insurance.
- All ACA plans include mental health coverage.
- Apply during Open Enrollment (Nov 1 – Jan 15) or during a Special Enrollment Period when coverage changes.

👉 <https://www.healthcare.gov> Phone: 1-800-318-2596

5. Other Affordable Counseling Options

- University Counseling Clinics – Low-cost therapy by supervised graduate interns. (Examples: Georgia State University, Mercer, Columbus State University).
- Nonprofits & Faith-Based Programs – Some churches and nonprofits offer free or donation-based counseling.
- Employer EAP Programs – If employed, check if the workplace offers short-term free therapy sessions.

6. Crisis Services

If you or someone you know is in immediate emotional distress:

- Call/text 988 for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.
- Call 1-800-715-4225 (Georgia Crisis & Access Line).

✅ Tip for Clients:

Keep this sheet handy and make calls as soon as possible—services may have waitlists. Ask for sliding-scale or uninsured programs when applying.