The governor's budget recommendations include the following priorities:

- $79,000 added to prevent opioid abuse by youth
- $84,000 added for one-time funds for crisis respite services
- $1.1 million added for child/youth suicide prevention
- $2.26 million added for care coordinator positions to improve mental health outcomes for children in foster care
- $79,000 added to prevent opioid abuse by youth

Georgia's foster youth. Worth noting are increases in per diem payments to organizations that serve foster youth to assist with their administrative costs. Some providers assert, however, that a greater reimbursement is needed to address these organizations’ costs.

The budget includes:

- $10.32 million added for crisis services for children and youth
- $2.67 million added for a $2.50 increase for child placement agency (CPA) foster parent per diem rates
- $7.46 million added for a $2.50 per day increase for relative foster care rates
- $5.6 million added for a 9.25% increase for child placement agency (CPA) foster parent per diem rates
- $4.29 million added for the Georgia Apex Program (GAP) for an additional 13 community programs
- $800,000 in state funds for the REACH Georgia Scholarship program to provide 226 additional scholarships statewide and expand into 44 new school systems.
- $34.4 million in state funds for growth in the Dual Enrollment program for high school students.
- $1.6 million to establish a leadership academy for principals per HB 338 (2017 Session).
- $2.3 million in state funds for growth in the Dual Enrollment program for high school students.
- $79,000 added to create infrastructure and support for telemedicine services
- $12.6 million added for crisis services for children in foster care
- $2.26 million added for care coordinator positions to improve mental health outcomes for children in foster care
- $79,000 added to prevent opioid abuse by youth

Autism Services

In FY 18, significant funding was allocated for the provision of services for youth with autism. The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta amended the Medicaid state plan to add a billing code for ABA therapy and to expand services to children age 10 years and older. This year, $94.45 million is directed toward autism services, telehealth services, and telehealth services. Funds are also allocated in the State Health Benefits Plan to support services for children with autism, ages 0-21. The Department of Community Health amended the Medicaid state plan to include telehealth services. Funds are also allocated in the State Health Benefits Plan to support services for children with autism, ages 0-21. The Department of Community Health amended the Medicaid state plan to include telehealth services.

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