

| Appendix J: Programs Addressing Youth Trauma in Georgia

Understanding that trauma is not only prevalent in justice-involved youth but is a risk factor for all children, Georgia state agencies and various organizations have put services and programs in place to address youth trauma in Georgia's communities and juvenile justice system. Some examples include:

Strengthening Families Georgia

A research-informed framework and approach to preventing child abuse and neglect that focuses on family and community strengths and protective factors rather than risk factors. The framework is implemented through a partnership that provides support to organizations embedding the framework and delivers trainings to parents and professionals.⁵³⁷

Georgia Essentials for Childhood

A comprehensive effort for child abuse and neglect prevention that works to build resilient communities, address and prevent ACEs, improve community environments, and reduce and destigmatize trauma.⁵³⁸

Trauma-Informed Care Trainings

Trainings offered by DBHDD (e.g., Mental Health First Aid, cultural and linguistic competence) along a provider manual (for community providers) to ensure providers consider and utilize trauma-informed practices as appropriate.^{539,540}

Mental Health Screenings

Screenings of all youth by DJJ for mental health issues, traumatic experiences, substance use, and self-harm risk upon admission to identify and treat mental health needs.⁵⁴¹

Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education & Treatment

An evidence-based program employing a group and individual treatment model for youth who have experienced multiple traumatic events. TARGET is delivered by mental health staff in DJJ facilities.⁵⁴²

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy

An evidence-based program that addresses trauma and helps youth develop a sense of safety and security, and repair or develop healthy social skills, as well as helping the caregiver feel more confident in their ability to help the child in a productive manner. It is one of the evidence-based programs administered through JJIG and CSG.⁵⁴³