



Karl D. Lehman  
Childkind  
(404) 248-1980 Ext 223  
[klehman@childkind.org](mailto:klehman@childkind.org)

## CHILDKIND REDUCES THE HEALTHCARE COSTS OF CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL COMPLEXITY

**Atlanta, Georgia:** Childkind improves outcomes and saves money for Medicaid claims paid for children with medical complexity.

### **Medicaid Cost Reductions: Department of Community Health Analysis**

Through its Home Based Services program Childkind saved Medicaid approximately \$1.28 million over a two-year period through its work with 56 children with Medical Complexity and Developmental Disabilities. A study completed by the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) points to the significant cost savings that can be achieved through Childkind's model intervention program.

The Georgia DCH analyzed Medicaid claims for children served through Childkind's Home Based Services program, an early intervention and support program for children with medical complexity and their families. The study examined incurred costs and paid claims on 56 children served by Childkind in 2013. The review covered the State Fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015 (7 Months). Results were compared to a control group.

According to the Georgia DCH, "Childkind achieved a significant impact on the total Medicaid claims paid for these children FY13 to FY15. The average per member per month (PMPM) cost (on an incurred basis) for FY13 was \$4,880.37 while the PMPM for FY15 is \$2,508.78. This represents a decrease of 49%."

The report also notes, "The results achieved by Childkind exceeded the control group selected for comparison. Childkind doubled the decrease in Medicaid payments as compared to the control group."

The analysis by DCH supports the findings from another review of Childkind's Home Based Services for children with medical complexity. Completed in December 2014 by staff at a pediatric hospital, that study documented a 70% reduction in days of hospitalization when comparing periods of up to one year before and after a family completed Childkind's services. Patient encounters dropped by 24%.

According to Dr. Yuri Okuizumi-Wu of Emory University School of Medicine and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding, "The study makes clear that early intervention and targeted family supports has a significant and positive impact upon the healthcare costs of this population of children. Childkind's unique multi-disciplinary team approach to in-home care instruction and case management clearly improves the ability of a parent to manage his or her child's complex care requirements."

**About Childkind:**

Founded in 1988, Childkind's mission is to empower families caring for children with special healthcare and developmental needs, promoting safe, stable and nurturing homes. Childkind's services are provided through three primary program initiatives:

Home Based Services provides major supports, care coordination and in-home medical instruction to parents and caregivers.

Placement Services provides foster, adoptive, and host-home placements for children with medical complexity and developmental disabilities.

Nursing Services provides high quality in-home nursing for children with complex care needs.

Childkind's success comes from working in the home in partnership with the family using staff with the right experience, education, and professional licensure.

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