



GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AGING

2023 CO-AGE PERENNIAL BUDGET PRIORITY



\$10 Million in Funding for Home & Community Based Services

The Issue

During the pandemic, requests for HCBS services dramatically surged. The rising costs of food and gas prices are stressors on services such as home-delivered meals and transportation programs. Seniors on fixed incomes are faced with increased costs of necessities such as food.

In-home services cost a fraction of the cost of a nursing home bed; Non-Medicaid in-home care averages \$2145 per person annually, far less than the cost of a nursing home bed.





The Ask

The Georgia Council on Aging and CO-AGE members advocate for a \$10 Million increase in funding for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS.) The Non-Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Program provides services that promote health and independence. HCBS programs consistently demonstrate in-home services help older Georgians stay in their homes and communities. On average, these services can help delay premature nursing home care by 51 months. In-home services include home delivered meals, adult day care, respite care, home modification and more. The longer a person is able to stay at home with supports, the more it saves taxpayer dollars.

The Georgia Council on Aging (GCOA) and the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE) recommends that HCBS funding be increased by \$10 Million. It would keep more older adults in their homes, maintain service provider jobs in local communities, and leverage public-private partnerships and solutions to the challenge of meeting the needs of an expanding older population.

About GCOA

The Council was created in 1977 by the Georgia Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity on aging issues to the Governor, General Assembly, Department of Human Services and all other state agencies.

About CO-AGE

The Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE) is a diverse group of organizations, individuals, consumers, and providers interested in improving the quality of life for older Georgians through public policy.