



## **2024 CO-AGE Priority**

### **\$10 Million Increase in Funding for Home & Community Based Services (HCBS)**

#### **The problem:**

- Due to 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.

**What legislation would do:** The Georgia Council on Aging and the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (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 that services in the home 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 happier and healthier they are and the more it saves taxpayer dollars.

GCOA and 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.