

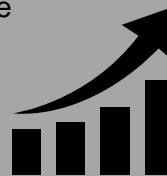
2025 CO-AGE Perennial Budget Priority

\$2.5 Million Increase in Funding for Non-Medicaid Home & Community Based Services



The Issue

- The Waiting List for non-Medicaid Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) has doubled since COVID to more than 14,000 people on waiting lists for 18,000 services
- 14,000+ older adults are waiting for services that provide much needed care, almost equally divided between:
 - Homemaker services;
 - Personal Support services; and
 - Home-delivered meals
- The anticipated growth of the older adult population is the highest in history, soon to eclipse other population segments, including children
- These services have demonstrated their cost efficiency by avoiding or delaying more costly services



The Numbers

- 2023 average yearly cost of HCBS per person **\$1,516** VS **\$79,896** yearly cost of state Medicaid bed.
- What this budget request would do: A \$2.5 Million increase in funding for Non-Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Program would reduce the Tier 1 waiting list by 4,939 people. It would immediately provide vital services that promote health and independence. On average, these services can help delay premature nursing home care by **51 months (4 years)**.

The Recommendation



- CO-AGE recommends that HCBS funding be increased by \$2.5 Million. The increase would keep more older adults in their homes and remove thousands from the Waiting List. Healthy people cost less and it can help meet the challenging needs of the burgeoning older population.

The Why

- Older adults prefer to stay in their familiar homes when possible and the longer a person is able to stay at home with supports, the more it saves taxpayer dollars. Georgia's older adult population increases every year. More and more people will need these services as we approach the largest population of older adults in history.