

BUDGET: \$360,000-\$540,000

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Behavioral Health and Housing funding

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The problem:

Safe, affordable housing is critically important to the independence of older adults. For individuals with limited incomes, senior living facilities, including those operated by non-profits and subsidized by HUD, provide a sense of community with other residents. While most residents thrive in these communities, a few residents have behavioral health issues that make community living difficult for themselves or other residents. The staff works diligently to resolve the issues and try to avoid evictions. Without access to other options, some of these individuals move into higher levels of care unnecessarily and some become homeless.

Atlanta Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging partnered with a housing provider to pilot a project to provide behavioral health coaches for residents with behavioral health needs.

What other states are doing:

ARC has received national recognition for the success of the pilot project.

What this funding would do:

In fiscal year 2019, coaches averaged 154 residents getting services, and the pilot study has a 99% success rate in avoiding evictions. State funding could expand to meet the behavioral health needs of older adults living in additional affordable housing sites in multiple locations. We recommend further pilots of this model in rural, suburban, and urban locations. The cost of the pilot project is \$180,000 per pilot and we're seeking funding for three-four pilot projects.

Any opposition:

Competition for limited funding.

Helpful Resources:

Atlanta Regional Commission
Atlanta-area housing providers
Leading Age Georgia