

2022 BUDGET PRIORITIES

FUNDING FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

✘ THE ISSUE

✔ THE FIX

COSTS FOR STATE-FUNDED NURSING HOME BEDS ARE HIGH

More than **9,600** Georgians age 60+ are on waiting lists for HCBS. As wait lists grow **service costs continue to rise**. These services **cost far less** than living at a nursing home and during the COVID-19 pandemic many who need care have preferred to **remain at home**.



INCREASE FUNDS FOR ALTERNATIVE HCBS CARE

\$10 million in the FY2023 DHS budget for state-funded non-Medicaid HCBS. The average cost in FY2021 was **\$2,227** per person per year. This is **far less** than what the state would pay to place individuals in a Medicaid nursing home bed.



WAITLIST NUMBERS ARE RISING ALONG WITH SERVICE COSTS

COVID-19 has taken a **disproportionate toll** on older adults, many of whom face new conditions of daily living. **Funding is needed** to cover meals, personal home care, caregiver respite, and other HCBS services.



ADD FUNDS TO THE DHS AFY2022 BUDGET FOR HCBS

Add **\$8.1 million** to the DHS budget to match **\$37.9 million** ARP funds. Together these funds would **provide thousands of Georgians with much-needed support services** from the Older Americans Act.



The need for caregiving increases with age. In 2018, the percentage of older adults age 85 and older who needed help with personal care (21%) was more than twice the percentage for adults ages 74-84 (8%) and five times the percentage for adults ages 65-74 (4%).

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FUNDING FOR LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

✘ THE ISSUE

CONSUMERS UNAWARE THAT LTC OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM EXISTS

Many consumers do not know that the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program is a free program and is a right of all residents living in LTC.



✔ THE FIX

ADD FUNDING TO SUPPORT A PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Funding of \$500,000 in FY2023 would support a public awareness campaign for the LTCO program, educating Georgians about ombudsman services.

CO-AGE is focused on helping older adults attain their best possible health wherever they are living.

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.