

Georgia CO-AGE 2019 Priorities

Aging & Independence Services Committee Meeting

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2019 CO-AGE Priorities

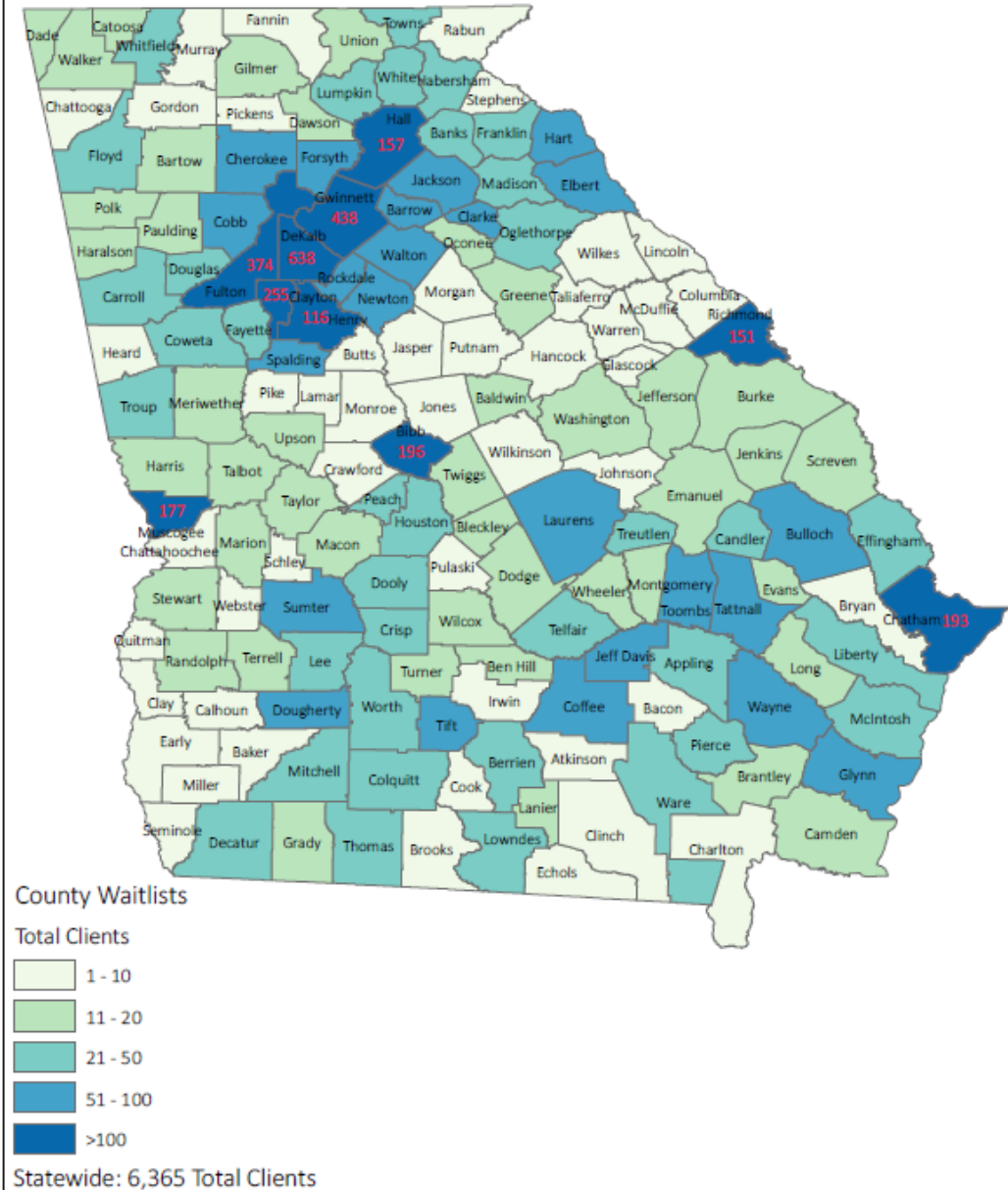
- Budget
 - Funding for Home & Community Based Services (HCBS)*
 - Funding for Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)*
- Legislative
 - Innovative Financial Options for Assisted Living*
 - Personal Care Home Requirements*
 - Health Coverage for Low-Income Older Persons

**Carryover CO-AGE priority*

Funding for HCBS

- Add \$10 million in new funding for in-home services
- Reasoning:
 - HCBS delay nursing home care by ~51 months
 - HCBS allow person to live independently and in community
 - In-home services cost less than nursing home care

Georgia Non-Medicaid HCBS Waitlist Totals by County
(as of November 12, 2018)



Funding for ADRCs

- Add \$4 million in funding to ADRCs statewide
 - Staff
 - Technology
- Reasoning:
 - ADRC funding in crisis because
 - 2 federal grant funding sources have ended
 - Increased demand for service from increase in OAs
 - Coordinated system of partnering organizations that works
 - >95,000 clients served in SFY2017
 - 26,000 community based providers connected with individuals

Innovative Options for Assisted Living

- Enable state Medicaid program to pay for assisted living more broadly
- Reasoning:
 - Current funding for personal services to qualified seniors is limited and doesn't cover housing expenses
 - Older people end up in costly Medicaid nursing home beds as only option
 - 46 other states & DC offer some level of assistance through Medicaid programs
- 2019 Strategy: pursue a Study Committee

Personal Care Home Requirements

- Provide more sanction options and violation categories for Personal Care Homes (PCH)
- Reasoning:
 - Need to ensure adequate care for residents in GA's 2,000+ PCH
 - Most severe penalty in Georgia is \$601-\$1,000
 - 2017 State Scorecard for Long Term Services & Supports
 - 48th for quality of life and care
 - 41st for choice of setting and provider

Medicare Health Care Coverage

- Increase income eligibility limits to provide more coverage
- Reasoning:
 - Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) covers premiums, deductibles, and co-pays for Medicare beneficiaries with income up to \$12,384 for single person
 - 100,224 Georgians received QMB assistance in 2013
 - In 2013, average Medicare beneficiary paid \$5,503 in out-of-pocket costs
 - Equivalent to 41% of average Social Security income
 - Projected to rise to 50% of SSI by 2030
 - Individuals with income over QMB limit struggle with co-pays and deductibles
- 2019 Strategy: raise awareness

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**Carryover CO-AGE priority*