



Advisory Committee on Aging
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
1:00pm – 2:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Govind Hariharan
LaWanda Folami
Barbara Guillory
Dom Louis
Gordon Rogers
Gloria Stills
Jennifer Rewkowski
Jessica Klausner
Richard Sylvia
Lynne Riley
Rob
Xavier Kim
Will Johnston
Jay Francis Springs
Kim Smith

I. Welcome

- o Govind calls meeting to order at 1:01pm

II. Public Comment Period

- o Joy Tellis Cooper
 - i. Board Member in Clayton County, district 8. Partnered with Dr. Folami on initiatives to support aging folks in Clayton County community. She praised Dr. Folami's passion and detailed the projects they worked on, including a Thanksgiving meal giveaway and Christmas Luncheon at the Forest Park Senior Center. She looks forward to continue partnering and collaborating with Seniors to build more resources, including rental assistance.

III. Managers Update – Becky Kurtz, Senior Managing Director



Atlanta Regional Commission

Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE)

2026 Funding Priorities:

- Funding for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)
- Funding for Behavioral Health Coaches in Affordable Housing

State Legislative Priorities:

- ~~Master Plan on Aging~~
- ~~Establish a Statutory Bill of Rights for Adults Under Guardianship~~
- ~~Enact Georgia Online Automatic Renewal Transparency Act (HB 529)~~



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Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Federal Updates: Funding for Federal FY 2026

FY 26 Appropriations Bills have passed House

+

Labor/HHS/Education Bill (and 5 others) now in Senate – need to pass by Jan 30

=

Partial Federal Shutdown????

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FY 26 Appropriations

- 📌 House has passed all 12 bills
- 📌 Senate Democrats: will vote “no” if DHS included in package; want to pass other 5 bills instead
- 📌 Senate Republicans: 6-bill package moving forward
- 📌 Takes 60 votes to pass Senate

- 📌 Any changes would take time and go back to House
- 📌 Unclear what House and President would do
 - House out this week

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Progress	Appropriations Bill
✓	Homeland Security
✓	Labor, HHS, Education
✓	Transportation & HUD
✓	Defense
✓	Financial Services & General Govt
✓	State & Foreign Operations
✓ ✓	Commerce, Justice, Science
✓ ✓	Energy & Water Development
✓ ✓	Interior & Environment
✓ ✓	Agriculture
✓ ✓	Legislative Branch
✓ ✓	Military Construction & VA

ARC

Federal Updates – FY 26 if no shutdown

Older Americans Act funding (Part of Labor/HHS/Education bill)

- Small increase in Title IIIB Supportive Services
- Small increase in Title IIIE Family Caregiver Supports
- No Title III cuts from FY 25 level

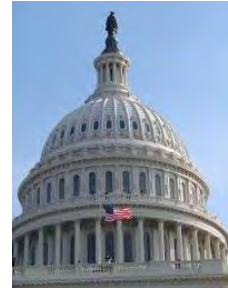
SSBG – no cuts from FY 25 level

AmeriCorps Seniors

- Restored at full funding
- ARC would need to compete for future grant to restore the program

OAA Reauthorization

- Waiting to see if House agrees to 2024 bipartisan version
- Co-sponsored in Senate by Georgia Senator Warnock



Update on Letters of Concern

October letters of concern regarding Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) responsiveness from:

- GA Department of Human Services/Division of Aging Services (DAS)
- GA Department of Community Health (Medicaid)

Status:

- ARC submitted Plan of Correction
- DAS sent follow up questions before holidays
- ARC responded in early January; awaiting response from DAS

Dom Lewis asks about why the governor asked COAGE to remove legislative priorities. Backy clarifies that they do not know and the office did not provide a reason. Regarding alternatives, she shared that folks in the aging network are “working to understand where they can fill the vacuum,” listing Georgia Gerontology Society as a potential choice.

IV. Metro Atlanta Speaks



About the Metro Atlanta Speaks Survey

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County	Online Survey	Landline Completions	Cellphone Completions	Total
Cherokee	49	41	221	311
Clayton	55	56	192	303
Cobb	219	30	152	401
DeKalb	365	32	113	510
Douglas	41	60	202	303
Fayette	15	72	215	302
Forsyth	35	76	197	308
Fulton	417	92	166	675
Gwinnett	240	34	131	405
Henry	40	70	192	302
Rockdale	20	70	211	301
Metrowide (%)	1496 (36.3%)	633 (15.4%)	1992 (48.3%)	4121



Survey Highlights

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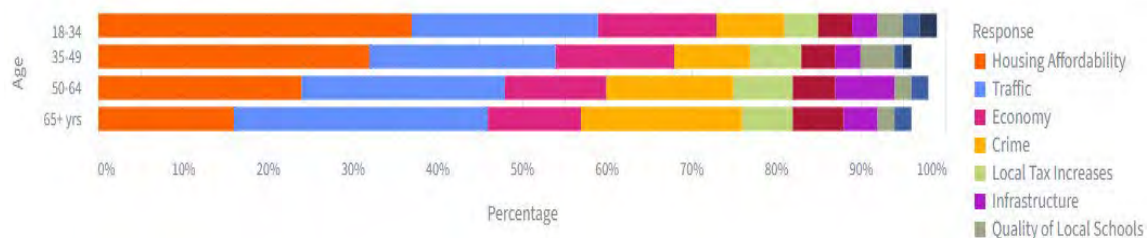
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Biggest Problem

Of the following, which issue is the biggest problem facing residents in the Metro Atlanta area today? Is it...

Response by Age Demographic (2025)

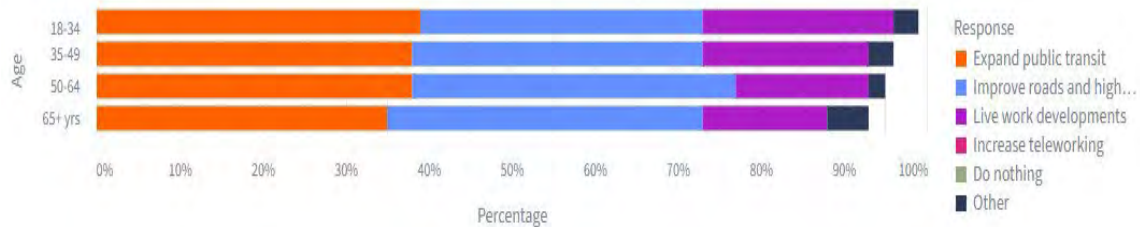


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Best Solution

Which of the following would be the best long-term solution to the traffic problems in the Metro Atlanta area? Would the best solution be...

Response by Age Demographic (2025)

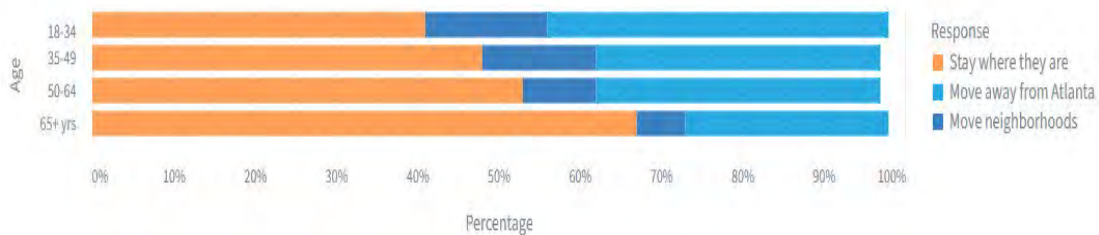


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Aging in Place

If you could, would you move to a different neighborhood in the Metro Atlanta area, stay where you are now, or move away from metro Atlanta?

Response by Age Demographic (2025)

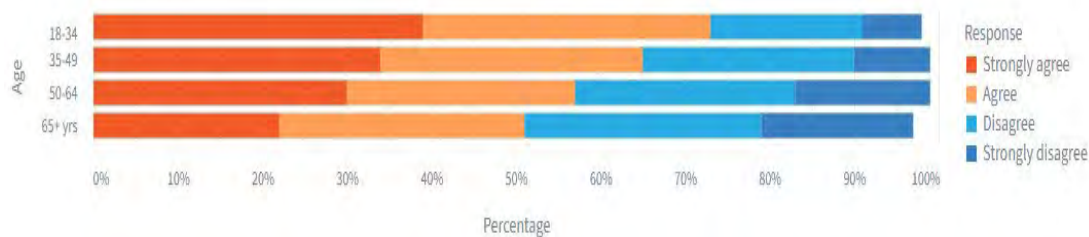


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Aging in (the Same) Place

'If I had to move right now, I could not afford to move to another house or apartment in the neighborhood where I currently live.' Do you...

Response by Age Demographic (2025)



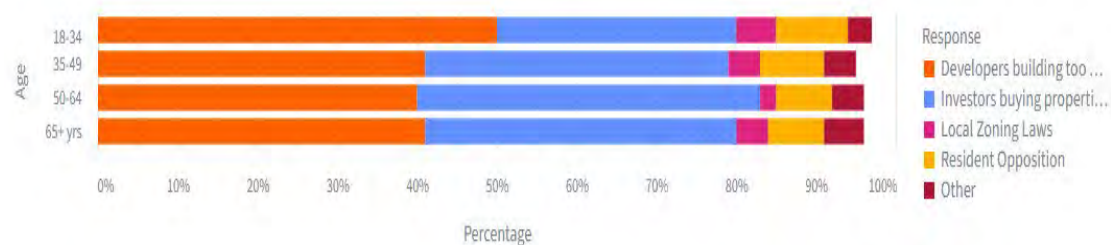
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Housing Unaffordability

Which of the following are the main reasons for the housing affordability problems some people are currently facing in the Atlanta area

Response by Age Demographic (2025)



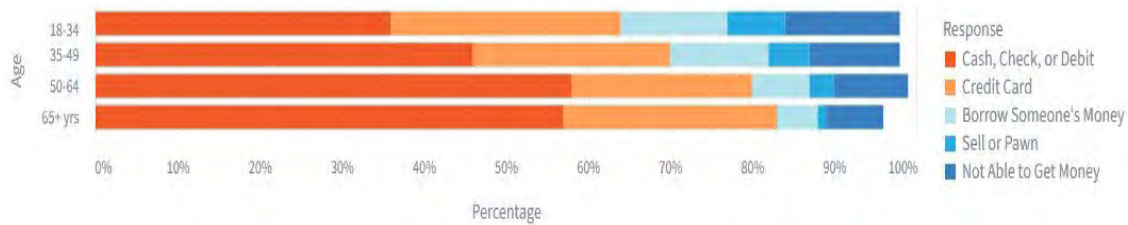
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Financial Stability

Some people have a hard time dealing with financial emergencies, while others are better able to handle these situations... We'd like to get a feel for how people would deal with an unexpected financial emergency. Suppose you had to come up with \$400 for such an emergency. Which of the following best describes how you would handle such a situation?

Response by Age Demographic (2025)



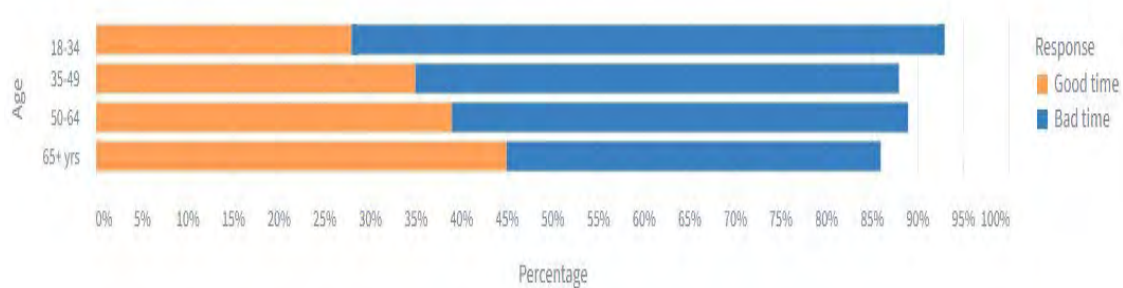
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The Optimists

Thinking about somebody who might be trying to find a job, would you say now is a good time or bad time to find a well-paying job?

Response by Age Demographic (2025)



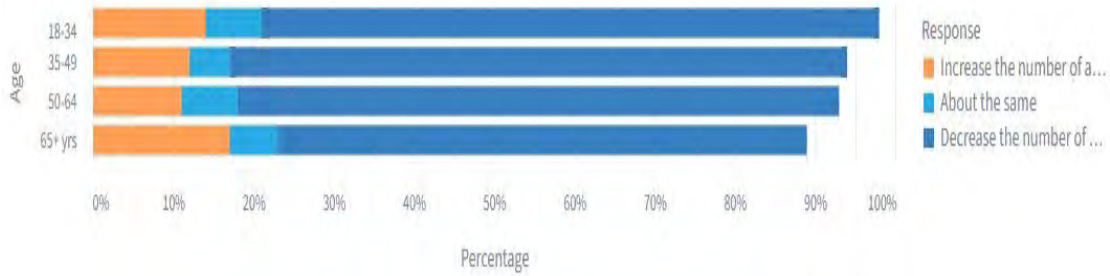
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The Optimists

Will artificial intelligence...

Response by Age Demographic (2025)

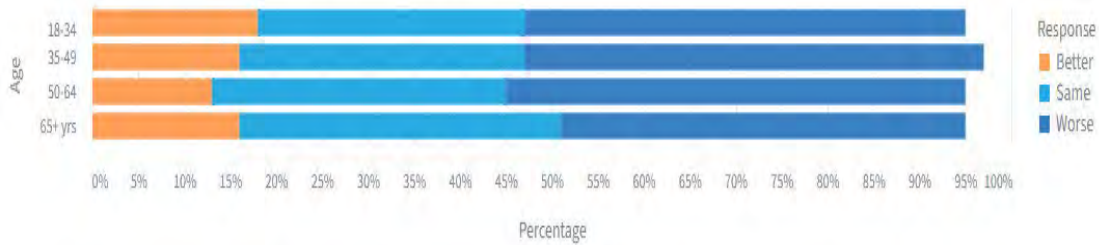


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The Optimists

As you look ahead to the next 3 or 4 years, do you think living conditions in the Metro Atlanta area THEN will be better, worse, or about the same as today?

Response by Age Demographic (2025)

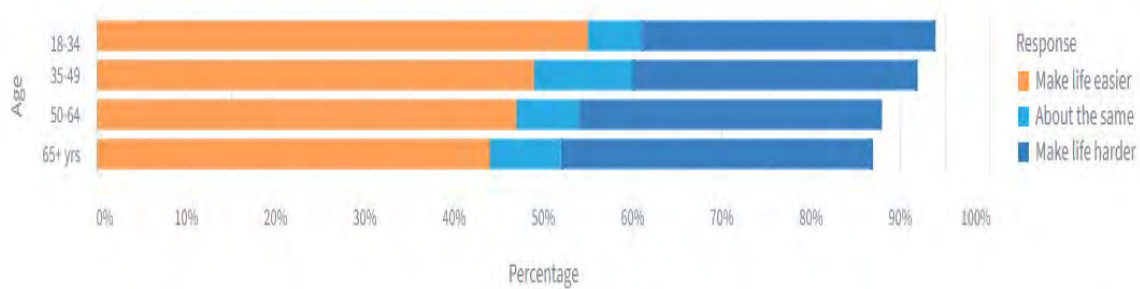


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The Realists

Will artificial intelligence...

Response by Age Demographic (2025)



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Metro Summary

Demographic Breakdown

FAQ



Metro Summary Dashboard

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Choose a question from the MAS 2025 Survey

QUALITY OF LIFE| In 3 years, will living in metro Atlanta be better, worse, or same? (Trend Available)

Select Survey Year

2025 2024 2023 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016

Select Summary Type

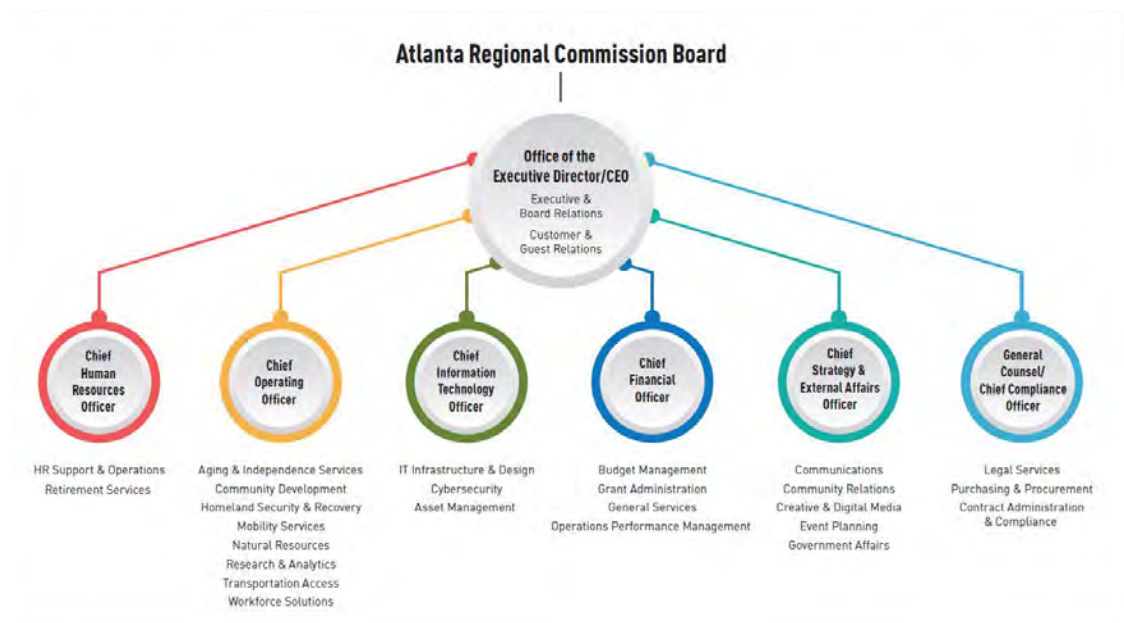
Topline Detailed



Jessica asks if there were notable differences between years in Metro Atlanta Speaks. Maria says the main difference is that there is a decrease in optimism about the future.

Will asks about the methods of the survey and why people didn't choose zoning as a housing barrier. Maria states that it is an opinion survey where people select from choices and can add other options.

V. Area Plan on Aging FY2025-FY2028 Plan SFY 27 Update – Sharise Thurman Byrd

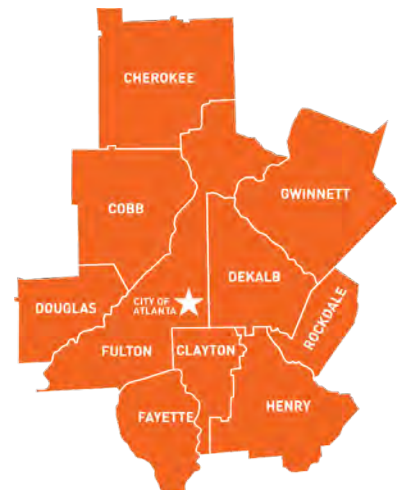




What is the Area Plan on Aging?

Purpose of the Area Agency on Aging & Area Plan

- ▮ Required of all area agencies on aging (AAA) by:
 - Federal Older Americans Act and
 - Georgia Division of Aging Services (DAS)
- ▮ 4-year plan for delivery of aging services in 10-county coverage area
 - Annually update funding and metrics
- ▮ Approval of plan/updates by DAS enables ARC to:
 - Continue our role as AAA for metro Atlanta
 - Receive federal and state grants for aging services
 - Funds are distributed according to statewide formula





What are we asking of you today?

FY 25 – FY 28 Area Plan

- The Older Americans Act requires Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA) review and approval of the Area Plan.
 - For FY27, this is merely an update to the existing plan
 - The updates include:
 - Public input received
 - Performance metrics
 - Budget revisions
- The ACA recommendation to approve the FY 27 update goes to the ARC Board for its approval.
- ARC approval of the Area Plan Update due to State by March 1.



Public Input Received

Live Beyond Expectations Top Concerns Across the Region

Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower rents • More types of housing (e.g., accessory dwelling units) • Assistance for those on fixed incomes • Pathways to homeownership • Home repair assistance
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased public transportation • Local transit options • Road maintenance • Increasing walkability
Community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for youth • Activities for older persons • Arts & culture events • Public gathering spaces

5 Feedback Sources	
Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing ▪ Transportation
Public Hearings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing (including needs for repairs/modifications, finding suitable housing, or affording housing/property taxes) • Transportation • Safety/Crime Prevention • 2-way tie between Communication and Information and Health Services and Community Supports.
Direct Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing (affordable) • Information and Assistance about available services • 3-way tie among Transportation, Walkability/Access to Services, and Financial Resources.
Community Engagement via Live Beyond Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Transportation • Community Activities
Waiting Lists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Delivered Meals • In-Home Services • Home Modifications



12th Year of Survey

- ❖ ARC conducts the Metro Atlanta Speaks public opinion survey to take the pulse of metro Atlanta residents and help guide the region's planning and decision-making.
- ❖ Participants complete the survey via online, landline, and cell phones.
- ❖ 11- county region, including Forsyth, which is not a part of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) designation results are included.
- ❖ 4,121 participants
- ❖ This iteration conducted by the CND
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Public Hearings – Area Plan & Direct Services

Area Plan Public Hearing
 Ovarum Community Services Health Human Services
 5025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville, GA 30059
 Wednesday, December 17, 2025
 1:30pm

Agenda

- **Welcome** Becky Kurtz – 5 minutes
Senior Managing Director, AAA Director
- **Purpose of Public Hearing and Area Plan** Skaris Byrd – 5 minutes
Program Administrator
- **Review AAIS Annual Report** Skaris Byrd – 10 minutes
Program Administrator
- **Area Plan SFY 2025-2028 Survey Results** Skaris Byrd – 10 minutes
Program Administrator
- **Public Comment** Public Hearing Participants
 - o Verbal: **Speak** up to 5 minutes
 - o **Timkeeper**
- **Conclusion Ways to Engage in Future with AAA and Empowerment** Skaris Byrd – 5 min
Program Administrator
- **Closing Remarks** Becky Kurtz – 5 minutes
Senior Managing Director, AAA Director

Direct Services Public Hearing
 Ovarum Community Services Health Human Services
 2025 Bethany Church Road, Snellville, GA 30059
 Wednesday, December 17, 2025
 2:00pm

Agenda

- **Welcome** Becky Kurtz – 5 minutes
Senior Managing Director, AAA Director
- **Purpose of Public Hearing and Area Plan** Skaris Byrd – 5 minutes
Program Administrator
- **Review AAIS Annual Report** Skaris Byrd – 10 minutes
Program Administrator
- **Area Plan SFY 2025-2028 Survey Results** Skaris Byrd – 10 minutes
Program Administrator
- **Public Comment** Public Hearing Participants
 - o Verbal: **Speak** up to 3 minutes
 - o **Timkeeper**
- **Conclusion Ways to Engage in Future with AAA and Empowerment** Skaris Byrd – 5 min
Program Administrator
- **Closing Remarks** Becky Kurtz – 5 minutes
Senior Managing Director, AAA Director



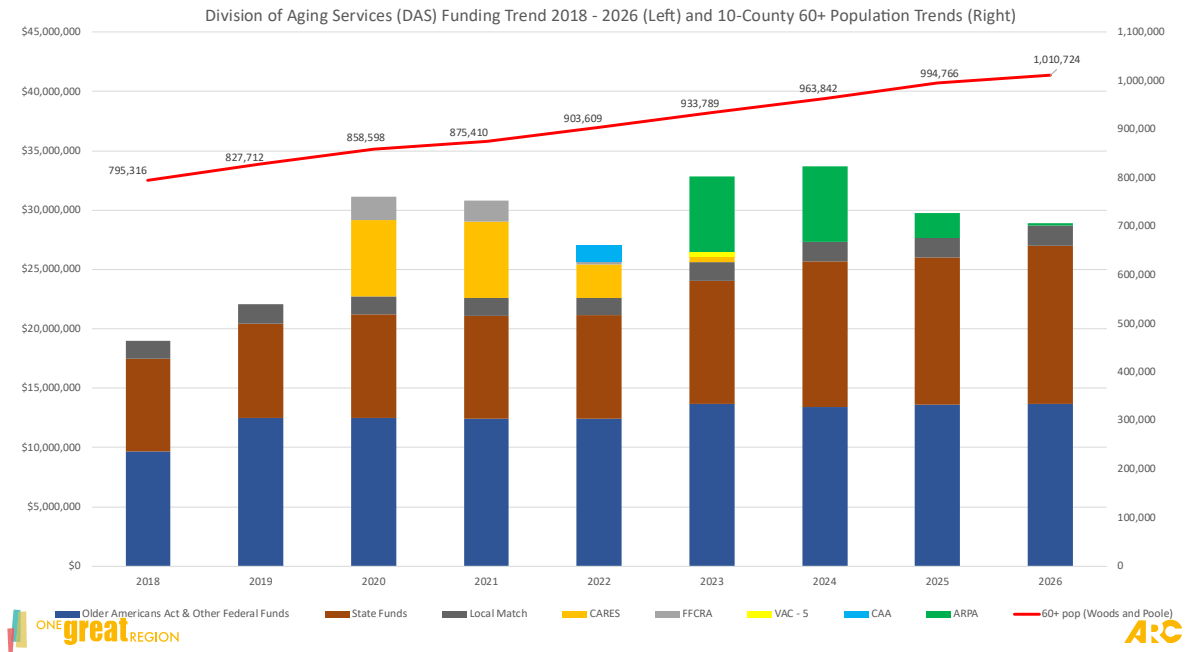
Highlights of the SFY 27 Area Plan

FY 25 – FY 28 Area Plan

The Georgia Division of Aging Services is providing the goals, (plus related objectives, strategies and metrics) required of all Georgia AAAs:

- Provide long-term services and supports
- Ensure consumer access to information
- Strengthen the aging network
- Improve quality in provision of long-term services and supports

Older Adult Population by County, 2023						
County	Total Population	Total 60+ Population	% of Population 60+	Total 85+ Population	% of Population 85+	% of 60+ Population that is 85+
Cherokee	293,513	68,458	23.3%	3,707	1.3%	5.4%
Clayton	297,703	51,553	17.3%	1,956	0.7%	3.8%
Cobb	787,538	160,836	20.4%	10,289	1.3%	6.4%
DeKalb	770,307	157,318	20.4%	10,600	1.4%	6.7%
Douglas	151,887	28,460	18.7%	1,459	1.0%	5.1%
Fayette	125,107	35,203	28.1%	2,649	2.1%	7.5%
Fulton	1,090,354	205,895	18.9%	14,661	1.3%	7.1%
Gwinnett	1,003,869	179,026	17.8%	9,474	0.9%	5.3%
Henry	259,315	49,426	19.1%	2,294	0.9%	4.6%
Rockdale	97,610	22,763	23.3%	1,285	1.3%	5.6%
ARC Region	4,877,203	958,938	19.7%	58,374	1.2%	6.1%

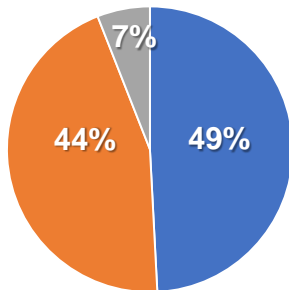


Year-After-Year Comparison

FY25 Planning Allocation

\$27,629,658*

Federal – \$13,588,477



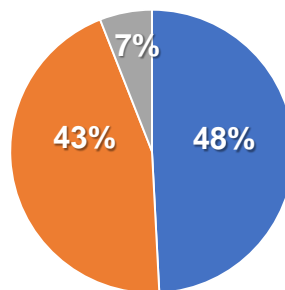
State – \$12,395,522

*Minimum Match - \$1,647,658 **7% match**

FY26 Planning Allocation

\$28,286,508*

Federal – \$13,658,521



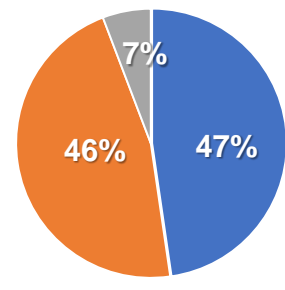
State – \$12,970,431

*Minimum Match - \$1,657,556 **7% match**

FY27 Planning Allocation

\$28,639,260*

Federal – \$13,658,521



State – \$13,323,183

*Minimum Match - \$1,657,556 **7% match**





FY 2027-2028 Recommended Grantees

Single County Providers

- # Cherokee County
- # Clayton County
- # Cobb County
- # DeKalb County
- # Douglas County
- # Fayette Senior Services
- # Fulton County
- # Gwinnett County
- # Henry County
- # Rockdale County

Multi County / Regional Providers

- # Atlanta Legal Aid Society
- # HouseProud Atlanta
- # Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability
- # Jewish Family and Career Services
- # Latin American Association
- # Peachtree Christian Health
- # Skylark ADH Johns Creek LLC



Services Funded by ARC

Single County

- # Assistive Technology
- # Caregiver Services (Respite)
- # Case Management
- # Congregate Meals
- # Consumer-Directed Services
- # Home Delivered Meals
- # Home Modifications and Repairs
- # Homemaker Service
- # Kinship Care
- # Material Aid
- # Personal Care Services
- # Senior Recreation
- # Transportation

Across Multiple Counties

- # Culturally Appropriate Information and Referral
- # Caregiver Services (Respite)
- # Elderly Legal Assistance Program
- # Home Modifications and Repairs
- # Kinship Care
- # Material Aid
- # Telephone Reassurance (Awarded NOFA SFY 2027)
- # Evidence-Based Wellness Education Classes (Active Notice of Funding Availability)



Services Directly Provided

- ▮ Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
- ▮ BRI* Care Consultation (for care partners)
- ▮ Nursing Home Transition
- ▮ Material Aid
(e.g., utility assistance, grocery boxes)
- ▮ Assisted technology
- ▮ Volunteer Management
 - Telephone reassurance (One2One)
- ▮ Wellness
 - Senior farmers' markets coordination

*BRI = Benjamin Rose Institute



Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

- ▮ Application for Telephone Reassurance as required by State:
- ▮ ARC staff currently provides this service
- ▮ ARC submitted application to continue providing the service directly
- ▮ Review of applications conducted by a committee of non-ARC staff
- ▮ ARC awarded NOFA for SFY 2027



VI. Action Items – Chair, Dr. Govind Hariharan

- Minutes from December 2, 2025 were unanimously approved
- Area Plan on Aging was unanimously approved



Atlanta Regional Commission

- VII. Announcements by Chair, Dr. Govind Hariharan
- Next ACA meeting – March 24, 2026

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

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