



Atlanta Regional Commission

Advisory Committee on Aging
Wednesday, May 1, 2025
1:00pm – 2:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendance ACA Members:

Co-Chair, Govind Hariharan	Kim Smith
LaWanda Folami	Richard Sylvia
Kristie Milner	Barbara Guillory
Gordon Rogers	Robert Alexander
Xavier Kim	

- I. Welcome Govind Hariharan
 - Co-Chair, Govind Hariharan, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- II. Public Comment Period Govind Hariharan, Co-Chair
 - No public comment recorded
- III. Managers Update – Becky Kurtz, Senior Managing Director

Federal Updates: Health and Human Services

🇺🇸 US Health and Human Services plans for FY 26 budget leaked in mid-April

🇺🇸 Proposes complete elimination of federal funding for many programs that assist older persons.

🇺🇸 Examples:

- OAA Long-Term Care Ombudsman (Title VII)
- [OAA Health Promotion \(i.e. evidence-based wellness classes\)](#) (Title IIID) (ARC provides)
- Several ACL discretionary grant programs (including [Elder Falls Prevention](#))
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) – Medicare counseling
- Adult Protective Services
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Federal Updates: Health and Human Services

Eliminates Administration for Community Living

- ½ staff were laid off on April 1

Splits remaining Older Americans Act programs between:

- Administration for Children and Families: nutrition programs
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: in-home, transportation, caregiver services, etc.



April 1 Hill Visits



- OAA Reauthorization
- FY 26 Appropriations
- Protect Medicaid
- HHS Reorganization Concerns

Federal Updates: The Process

Next steps:

- HHS: the leaked document could have been a draft
- White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB):
 - develops President's Budget for FY 2026
- Congress:
 - creates its own Budget (i.e. spending outline) and Appropriations, regardless of Presidential recommendations
- Executive Branch can re-organize its agencies and set priorities BUT:
 - Congress has the spending authority
 - Executive Branch is required to follow the law (which Congress passes)

Critical for constituents to inform Congressional members of priorities

Federal Updates: AmeriCorps

ARC has received AmeriCorps Seniors/RSVP grants for 18 years

Funds most of our volunteer management

- Focus on Empowerline outreach events and community education

In 3rd year of 3-year grant

Notice on Friday, April 25: grant terminated immediately

Federal Highlights: Congress

Senator Raphael Warnock

- Signed letter to Secretary Robert Kennedy re: HHS Reorg

Representatives Lucy McBath, David Scott, and Hank Johnson

- Signed letter to Secretary Robert Kennedy re:
 - ACL dissolution
 - OAA and other ACL programs



If I were making Hill Visits today....



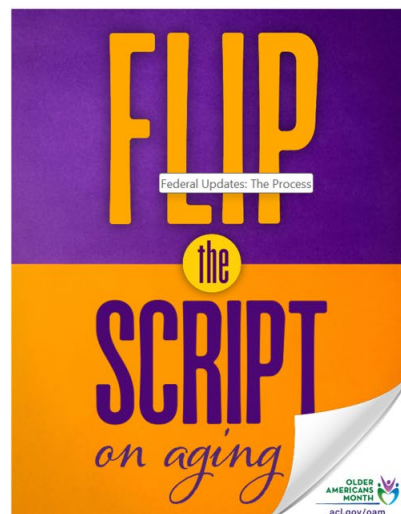
- ▮ FY 26 Appropriations
- ▮ Protect Medicaid
- ▮ HHS Reorganization Concerns:
 - Who will be federal lead for aging issues?
 - How will OAA programs be coordinated across agencies?
- ▮ AmeriCorps: restore volunteer programs, such as RSVP

Same as March: Uncertainty at many levels

And still the same . . .

- FY 25 OAA funding is continuing at same level
- ARC values: Excellence, Equity, and Integrity
- Our work: mandated by our grants, including:
 - Older Americans Act
 - Medicaid
- Support for populations that are in “greatest social and economic need”

May is Older Americans Month





Aging Snapshot

Flipping the Script on Aging
with Data and Statistics

May 2025



FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025

2025 Theme: Flip the Script on Aging

- Focus on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging
- Encourage individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions

2025 Theme: Flip the Script on Aging

Using the FrameWorks Institute's research, we can identify common misconceptions people have about aging and reframe them with data



Finding the Frame:

An Empirical Approach to Reframing Aging and Ageism

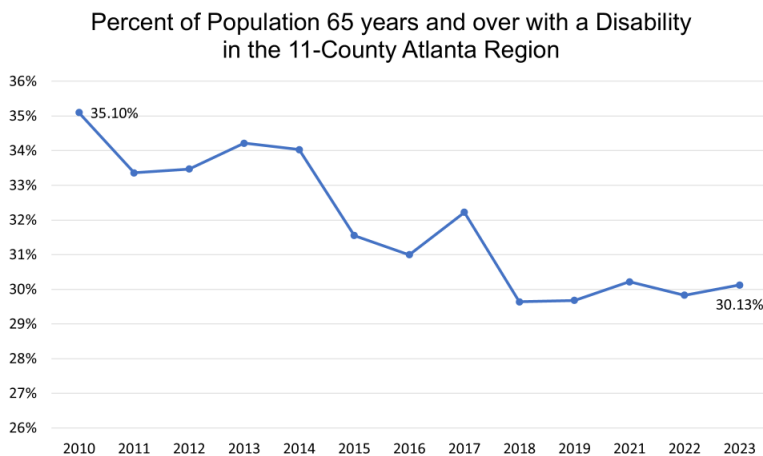
A FrameWorks Research Report

ONEgreatREGION Source: <https://www.frameworksinstitute.org/resources/finding-the-frame-an-empirical-approach-to-reframing-aging-and-ageism/>

ARC 15

Flip the Script

Misconception: "Aging is a decline that ends in dependency"



ONEgreatREGION Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year Estimates, 2010-2023 (2020 not available), Table S1810

The rate of metro Atlanta seniors experiencing disability has actually decreased over the last decade.

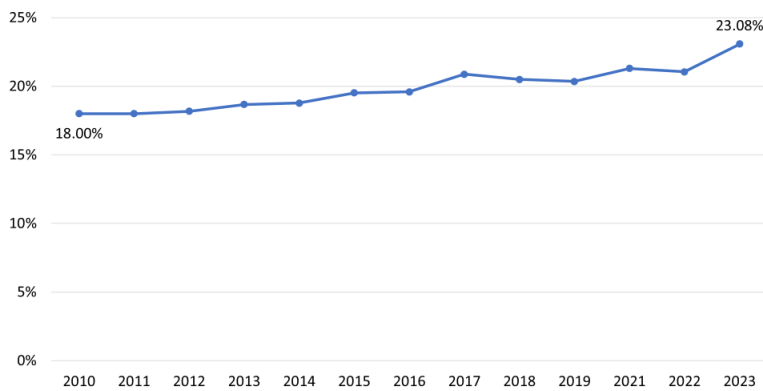
In 2010, 35 percent of older adults in the Atlanta region reported having a disability. By 2023, only 30 percent reported a disability.

ARC 16

Flip the Script

Reality: “Older age brings new opportunities for growth, contribution, and self expression”

Percent of Population 65 years and over in the Labor Force in the 11-County Atlanta Region



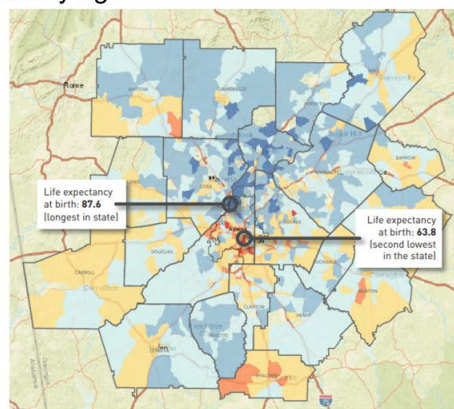
ONE great REGION Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year Estimates, 2010-2023 (2020 not available), Table C23001

In fact, the labor force participation rate of people 65 years and over has increased in the Atlanta region since 2010.

As of 2023, nearly 1 out of 4 older adults in metro Atlanta were still in the labor force.

Flip the Script

Misconception: “Willpower is the ultimate determinant of wellbeing at any age”



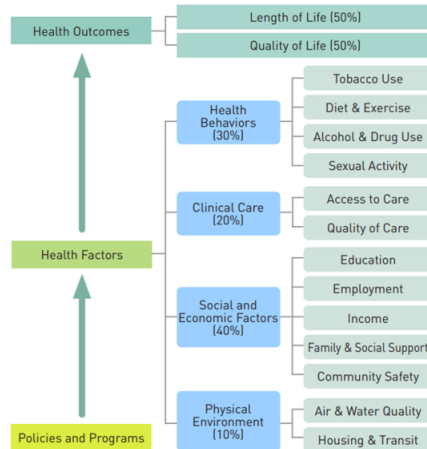
ONE great REGION Source: <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/live-beyond-expectations-framework-final-91520-1.pdf>

Quality of life and life expectancy are strongly correlated with geography.

Here in metro Atlanta, someone who lives in Vinings can expect to live 25 years longer than someone just a few miles away in Bankhead.

Flip the Script

Reality: “There are a wide range of social factors that have a profound influence over outcomes in later years”



ONE great REGION County Health Rankings model © 2014 UWPHI Source: <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/live-beyond-expectations-framework-final-91520-1.pdf>

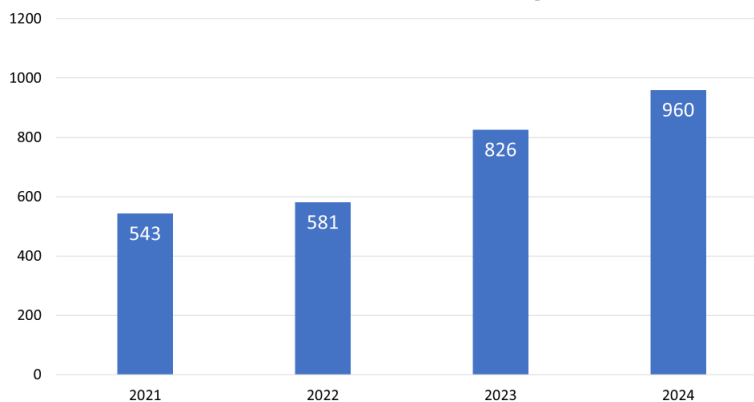
Research suggests that the strong ties between one's place of residence and life expectancy are rooted in a complex mix of factors.

You can learn more about these economic, social, and physical conditions by checking out ARC's [Live Beyond Expectations Strategic Plan](#).

Flip the Script

Misconception: “Ageism is not a real problem”

Number of new Age Discrimination Charges filed with EEOC from the State of Georgia



ONE great REGION Source: <https://www.eeoc.gov/data/enforcement-and-litigation-statistics-0>

In 1967, the US Congress passed the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), which prohibits treating a job applicant or employee less favorably because of his or her age.

The law applies to people who are age 40 or older, and the number of new charges filed in Georgia have nearly doubled in the last 4 years.

Flip the Script

Reality: “Older Americans represent an enormous source of civic and economic contribution, but ageist assumptions about their abilities impede the realization of these contributions”

Age discrimination costs the United States

\$850 billion

in annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

ONE **great** REGION Source: https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/surveys_statistics/econ/2020/impact-of-age-discrimination.doi.10.26419-2fint.00042.003.pdf

In 2020, AARP released a study that quantified the economic impact of age discrimination like involuntary retirement, underemployment, and unemployment.

The study suggested that if current trends continue, by 2050 age discrimination could cost the US \$3.9 trillion in economic activity annually.

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Flip the Script

Misconception: “The Atlanta region’s population is getting younger just as much as they are getting older”

	Age Group	2020 Population	2050 Population	Change 2020-2050	Percent Change 2020-2050
11-County Region	0-18	1,248,073	1,305,887	57,814	4.6%
	19-34	1,114,919	1,166,996	52,077	4.7%
	35-54	1,381,484	1,658,652	277,168	20.1%
	55-64	599,895	787,314	187,419	31.2%
	65+	623,143	1,386,175	763,032	122.4%

ONE **great** REGION Source: <https://33n.atlantaregional.com/arc-series-17-forecast>

ARC’s most recent population forecast indicates that older adults age 65 and over are the fastest growing age demographic in the 11-county Atlanta region.

While in 2020 there were twice as many people age 0-18 years as older adults, by 2050 people age 65+ are forecast to outnumber those age 0-18.

ARC 22

Flip the Script

Reality: “Successful adaptation to an aging society will require adjustments in transportation, urban planning, housing, and community development”



Atlanta Regional Commission

Home • What We Do • Aging Services and Resources • Planning for Lifelong Communities • Aging & Independence Policy Briefs

Aging & Independence Policy Briefs

These policy briefs are designed to provide a better understanding of the crucial issues impacting older people, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. They offer specific planning, policy, and programmatic solutions, and can be used by decision-makers and advocates to make sense of and act on issues.

ONE great REGION Source: <https://atlantaregional.org/what-we-do/aging-services-and-resources/aging-health-planning/aging-and-independence-policy-briefings/>

ARC is uniquely positioned as an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to plan for the housing and transportation needs of older adults and exemplify an Age-Friendly Community.

One way we do this is by publishing Policy Briefs.

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IV. Action Items – Co-Chair Govind Hariharan

- Minutes from March 18, 2025
- Motion approved
 - i. 1st Motion – Dr. LaWanda Folami
 - ii. 2nd Motion – Barbara Guillory
- Any discussion – No request for discussion
- No opposed motion
- ACA By-laws – presented by Rob Alexander

By-Laws: Highlights of Changes

Article I: Explains primary reason for changes (federal regulations)

Article II: Updates ACA objectives to:

- Mirror those in federal regulations (A-E) and
- Describe relationship between ACA and the ARC Board (F)

Article III: Section 1 - Updates list of members to mirror federal regulations

Article III: Section 2 –

- Describes application process for membership
- Changes appointment authority from ARC Board Chair to ARC Executive Director



By-Laws: Highlights of Changes

- Article III: Section 4 – Updates current terms for position title and organizational title used by ARC
- Article III: Section 5 -- Adds reference to ARC Standards of Ethical Conduct.
- Article IV: Section 1 - Updates officer positions:
 - From Co-chairs (one from ARC Board, one from public)
 - To Chair and Vice-Chair
- Article IV: Section 2-6 – Clarifies officer nominations, terms and successor processes

By-Laws: Highlights of Changes

- Article V: Clarifies officer duties
- Article VI: Section 1 - Provides flexibility regarding meeting schedule
- Article VI: Section 2 - Updates current terms for position title and organizational title used by ARC
- Article VII: Updates provisions related to subcommittees

- LaWanda Folami asked about a requirement that would require committee members be in attendance. Discussion took place by members on their recommendations to add attendance to meetings.
- The committee decided that the by-laws would be presented today for approval with an amendment planned for the August meeting to clarify member participation requirements.
 - i. 1st Motion – Dr. LaWanda Folami
 - ii. 2nd Motion – Barbara Guillory
- Motion approved unanimously
- Barbara Guillory asked about future conversation if attendance by Zoom could be considered. Becky Kurtz will check with our General Counsel since the committee is not considered part of the ARC Committees.

V. Presentations

Debra Stokes with CO-AGE gave a presentation.



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- HOW TO LEARN YOUR LEGISLATORS
- CO-AGE CALENDAR
- 2025 PRIORITIES
- LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP UP
- CALL FOR ISSUES
- GET INVOLVED
- EVALUATION



ABOUT CO-AGE

Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE) was created by the Georgia Council on Aging (GCOA) as a forum to identify and address concerns of older Georgians. CO-AGE is a vehicle for bringing broad-based input on aging issues from across the state to the attention of the General Assembly. Every July, CO-AGE members vote to prioritize issues to bring to Georgia's elected officials. Here are the issues that were voted on for the 2025 Legislative Session.



EVE ANTHONY

Eve Anthony is the CEO of the Athens Community Council on Aging, where she has served for over 22 years and became CEO in 2017. A passionate advocate for older adults, she leads one of the Southeast's largest aging service nonprofits, overseeing programs, building community partnerships, and advocating at all levels of government.

A University of Georgia graduate with a Gerontology Certification from Kennesaw State, Eve serves on multiple boards including LeadingAge Georgia and Meals on Wheels Georgia, and is a member of the Georgia Council on Aging. She also contributes to national and state advisory committees focused on senior hunger and aging research. Outside of work, Eve enjoys family life with her husband Neal and daughter Lily.



CO-AGE CHAIR

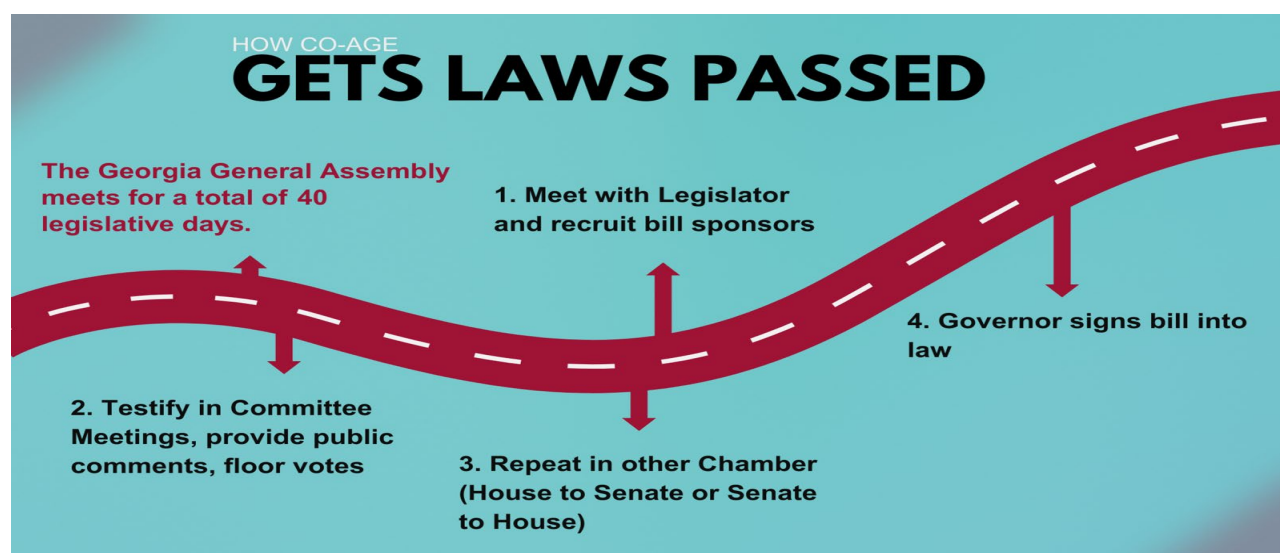
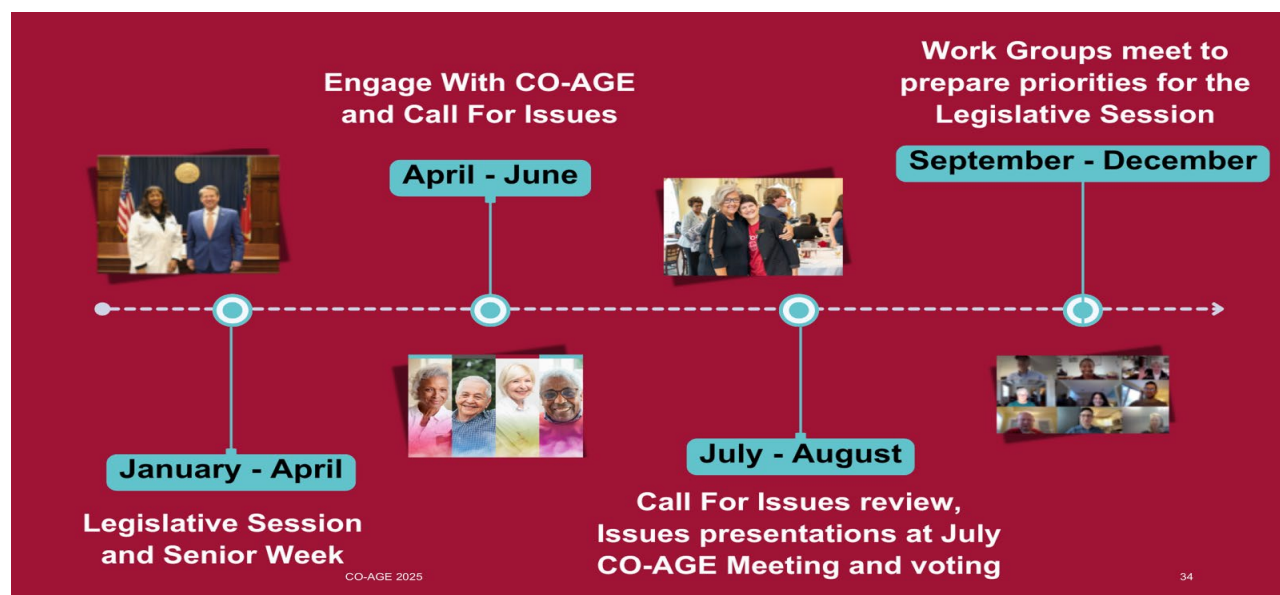


KNOW YOUR LEGISLATOR

Use my current location

Please enter your location in the form above to view your local legislators.

PLURALPOLICY.COM



SENIOR DAY



The Distinguished Older Georgian Award Ceremony, where Carleen Cumberbatch was honored for her dedication to senior advocacy.



Key highlights included:

Legislator interactions, allowing attendees to voice their concerns and share their experiences.



Guided Capitol tours and opportunities to engage with policymakers.



INSIDE LOOK

The 2025 CO-AGE Priorities are:

- \$2.5 million increase in funding for Non-Medicaid Home and Community Based Services
- Study of Medicaid in Assisted Living Facilities
- Update the Georgia Code for Multidisciplinary Teams for Adult Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation
- Supported decision making documents as an alternative to adult guardianship
- End of life options formally known as Study of Medical Aid in Dying (MAID)

DO YOU KNOW OF AN ISSUE THAT:



- Can be solved with legislation
- Is a state-wide issue

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2025 CALL FOR ISSUES

Each year, the Georgia Council on Aging (GCOA) invites submissions from CO-AGE voting members, individuals or organizations with active memberships to propose priority issues for the upcoming legislative session.

Your submissions are crucial for identifying and addressing challenges impacting older adults across Georgia. Many past submissions have successfully influenced legislative action, leading directly to improvements in senior care and support statewide.

CO-AGE 2025



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WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN CO-AGE

Most current updates and news on meetings/conferences/events involving senior related concerns.

Ability to submit legislative and budget priority issues.

Voting privileges for Legislative Issues.

Invitation to all CO-AGE events and meetings.

Senior Issues Email Newsletter, delivered weekly during the legislative session and monthly post session.

Important Advocacy Alerts on issues impacting seniors in Georgia.

Web links to organizations/businesses on "Our Partners" page.

Volunteer opportunities

ADVOCATE (NOUN)

- 1) One who defends or maintains a cause
- 2) One who supports or promotes the interests of a cause or group
- 3) One who pleads the cause of another
- 4) One who volunteers
- 5) You 😊



CO-AGE 2025

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SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT CO-AGE MEETING

July 14, 2025

Annually CO-AGE hosts their General Meeting in Macon, GA., and other cities Statewide.

Each year, members of CO-AGE select issues specific to the older adult population and establish them as Legislative Priorities for the upcoming year.

atlantaregional.org

International Tower
229 Peachtree St, NE | Suite 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Becky Kurtz stated that all ACA members are signed up as a member of CO-AGE.

John Bayalis gave a legislative update

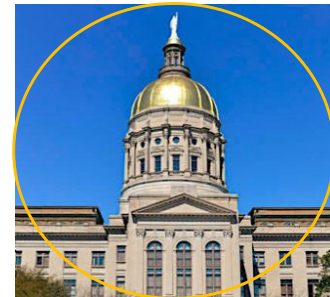
2025 Session of the Georgia General Assembly

The General Assembly convened for the 2025 Session on **Monday, January 13, 2025**

40 legislative days – **Sine Die** took place on **4/4/25**

All new legislation

- Year one of a new two-year Session
- All legislation that did not fail remains alive for 2026
- For legislation that did pass, the Governor has until **May 14th** to sign, veto or do neither



Budget (HB 68)

Regional Commission funding increase:

- Worked with our partners at the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) to secure an additional **\$500,000** in funding for the Regional Commission system and our coordinated planning duties as mandated by the state

Aging Services

- The budget also included more than a million *additional* dollars (**\$1.09M**) for home and community-based services (HCBS)

Transportation and Infrastructure

- MPO Match funding was again included in the DOT budget
- An additional **\$3.5M** for GODT's Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant program (LMIG) program, benefitting our local jurisdictions.



Transportation

General – All **PASSED**

- [HB 156](#) (places oversight of future vertiports under GDOT)
- [HB 164](#) (permanently increases truck weight allowances across most of the state, excepting the 13-county area comprising Atlanta metro)
- [HB 575](#) (amending GDOT public hearings process)
- [HB 652](#) (exempts EV charging stations owned by non-profit organizations from paying the electric equivalent of motor-fuel taxes)



Transit

MARTA

- [HB 638](#) (camera enforcement of BRT lanes and associated penalties) - **Tabled**
- [HR 947](#) (House Study Committee to investigate the City of Atlanta's role in delaying permitting around the Five Points Station rehabilitation project) – **Introduced final week, no action but remains alive for next Session**



Aging & Independence Services

PASSED

- [HB 54](#) (authorizes licensed physician assistants to order home healthcare services to patients of licensed home health agencies)
- [HB 238](#) (creates and maintains an at-risk adult training course focusing on officer response to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or dementia through the Georgia Peace Officer and Training Council)
- [HB 567](#) (authorizes and creates regulatory framework for tele-dentistry in the state)

TABLED

- [HB 154](#) (designates EMS, including ambulance services, as *essential services*)
- [HB 291](#) (establishes the Georgia Community Health Worker Certification Committee, creating a pathway to certification for Community Health Workers (CHWs) to strengthen and sustain the CHW workforce)



Other Legislative Items of Interest

Regional Commissions

- No major legislation touching Regional Commissions ([HB 485](#))

Workforce Development

- No major legislation touching workforce development

Housing

- [HB 399](#) (requires out-of-state property managers to have staff in-state to respond to resident issues)

Government Operations

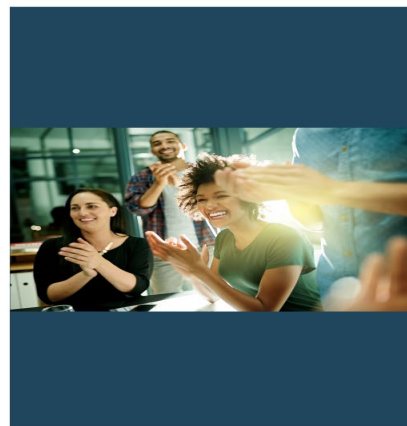
- [SB 12](#) (routing open records requests for contractors through the agency through which they are/were contracted with)
- [SB 28](#) (General Assembly oversight of rule making within select State Agencies to protect small businesses)

Taasha Ward presented on the Department of Community Health



Our Purpose

Shaping the future of *A Healthy Georgia* by improving access and ensuring quality to strengthen the communities we serve.



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

What is EDWP Program?



SOURCE + CCSP (Traditional/Enhanced) are part of the EDWP. Both SOURCE and CCSP assists individuals who are elderly and/or functionally impaired to remain in their homes and/or communities. For eligible consumers, EDWP offers community-based services as an alternative to nursing facility placement. The Department of Community Health administers and operates the EDWP.

Slide #



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

Services in EDWP



- Adult Day Health**
- Alternative Living Services**
- Emergency Response Services**
- Home-Delivered Services**
- Personal Support Services**
- Consumer-Directed Personal Support Services**
- Structured Family Caregiver**
- Out-of-Home Respite Care**
- Case Management (Enhanced and Traditional)**



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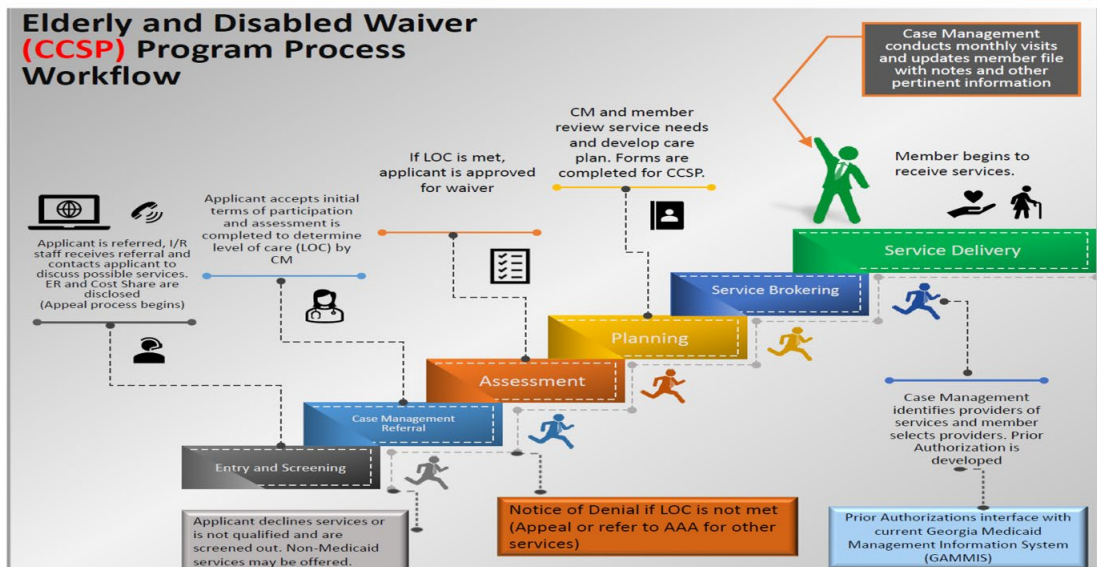


All 12 Area Agency on Aging regions including Atlanta Regional Commission contracts with Georgia Department of Community Health to complete assessments to forecast eligibility for members across the State of Georgia

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Elderly and Disabled Waiver (CCSP) Program Process Workflow





- Know someone who could benefit from receiving services and remain in the community?
- Contact Information:

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

EDWP Information- (404) 463-3333 (Atlanta)

Area Agency on Aging- (404) 463-3100 (Atlanta)

Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Rockdale, and Henry

Slide #



Vonnie Stelly - HCBS Waiver Unit Manager/Interim ICWP Waiver Specialist
(vonnie.stelly@dch.ga.gov)

Shandria Beasley - HCBS Waiver Unit Supervisor/NOW/COMP Waiver Specialist
(shandria.beasley@dch.ga.gov)

EDWP Specialists – ccsp.messages@dch.ga.gov

Andrea Streeter - EDWP Waiver Specialist (andrea.streeter@dch.ga.gov)

Briana Coogler - EDWP Waiver Specialist (briana.coogler@dch.ga.gov)

Marina Kim - EDWP Waiver Specialist (marina.kim@dch.ga.gov)

ICWP Waiver Specialist - Vacant

VI. Announcements by Co-Chair Govind Hariharan

- May applications open for new ACA members
- May 22 Live Beyond Expectations Summit will be held at the Georgia Municipal Association
- July 14 – CO-AGE Issues Selection Meeting will be held at Chateau Elan
- August 19 is the next ACA Meeting

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.