

Social Case for Community-Based Crisis Management in Georgia

Short Advocacy Message

The Georgia Senate Appropriations Committee approved **\$409 MILLION** for a new 300-bed mental health hospital. While crisis infrastructure matters, we must also invest in solutions that prevent crises and reduce long-term costs. Next, the budget goes to the House Appropriations Committee for approval or amendment. While crisis infrastructure matters, we must also invest in solutions that prevent crises and reduce long-term costs.

Now is the time for UnlockGA members to contact state legislators to help them understand why they need to focus on investing in increasing NOW/COMP Waivers that help people before they go into crisis, rather than costly facility-based supports for after crisis happens.

If you don't know who your legislator is, you can use this resource from GCDD to find your legislator's contact information!

https://gcdd.org/images/2025/advocacy_days_2025/Finding-our-State-Legislator.pdf

I understand that local Sheriffs and law enforcement face challenges with people struggling with a mental or behavioral health crisis in their local jails. It is estimated that 40% of people in jails for a behavioral health/law enforcement incident probably have a developmental disability as well. I recognize that DBHDD is building a crisis response network across the state. **I want to make the point that Georgia should provide supports for people in their families, home, and communities BEFORE they experience a crisis or encounter with law enforcement.**

We are asking the legislature to **fund at least 1,217 waivers for people most in need on the NOW/COMP waiting list** and to provide staff support for this effort, at \$132 million. Supporting families' needs would save money, keep families intact, and keep communities safe. Families have been waiting too long for these critical supports.

Georgia can either pay for crises repeatedly or invest once in stability for people and the community.

