

Families Need HCBS, Georgia Needs Families

A Social and Economic Case for Supporting Families who need HCBS

Key Economic Information for Policymakers

For Georgia, expanding HCBS stabilizes families by reducing out of pocket costs and keeping people in the workforce, creates and protects jobs for HCBS providers, reduces preventable and emergency health costs for people with disabilities, and advances economic equity for families of color.

Bottom-line message for Georgia

Expanding HCBS strengthens Georgia's families and communities by supporting people at home, easing caregiver strain, and preventing higher costs down the road. Expanding HCBS also helps families by protecting caregivers' ability to work, and advancing more equitable access to services across Georgia.

HCBS impact on Georgia

- **For Georgia families:** HCBS reduces the need for unpaid or privately paid care and additional medical expenses that forces families to absorb thousands of dollars in extra costs each year. HCBS also helps families that would otherwise leave the workforce to support their loved ones remain in their professional roles.
- **For Georgia's workforce:** HCBS helps families stay employed, reducing labor shortages across industries.
- **For equity in Georgia:** HCBS expansion delivers the greatest economic relief to families who face the highest caregiving burden, these tend to be families of color and those living in rural areas.



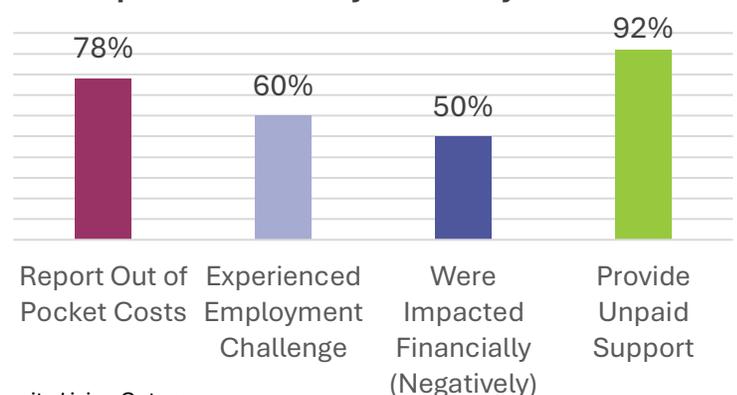
This document shares evidence-based information and resources about the economic benefits of HCBS in Georgia.

Advocates can use this information to highlight the importance of decreasing the HCBS planning list and to make a case for protecting Medicaid.

HCBS Impact	How do HCBS Deliver Results?	What it means for Georgia?
<p>HCBS reduces caregiver health strain and downstream costs</p> 	<p>Unmet HCBS needs are linked to poorer caregiver health, higher stress, and reduced community participation, which can lead to avoidable health system costs. HCBS reduces the intensity and amount of supports that families provide, which leads to better health and less burnout.¹</p>	<p>By reducing caregiver stress and burnout, HCBS can decrease preventable health costs and reduce pressure on the healthcare system that is already strained across the state.</p>
<p>HCBS stabilizes the direct care workforce</p> 	<p>Underfunded HCBS systems drive workforce shortages and high turnover due to low wages, stressful work environments, and overreliance on overtime². Sustained HCBS investment improves job stability, service continuity, and care quality, reducing costly disruptions for people and families.³</p>	<p>Sustained HCBS investment would help Georgia reduce workforce turnover, improve service reliability, and ensure people with IDD are not left without care due to staffing shortages.</p>
<p>HCBS protects caregivers' ability to stay employed</p> 	<p>Among family caregivers, 60% experience employment challenges, including reduced hours, job changes, or leaving the workforce, when adequate paid supports are unavailable.⁴ When families leave the workforce it hurts families and it hurts the state's workforce.</p>	<p>HCBS allows Georgia's family caregivers to stay in the workforce, reducing job loss, maintaining household income, strengthening the state's overall labor force, and improving Georgia's workforce and tax base.</p>
<p>HCBS delivers greater economic benefits for families of color</p> 	<p>Black caregivers spend on average 34% of their income and Hispanic/Latinx caregivers 47% of their income on caregiving expenses when supports are inadequate (compared to an overall average of 26%). Expanding HCBS delivers economic benefit to historically underserved families.⁵</p>	<p>Because caregivers of color in Georgia face disproportionately high financial strain, expanding HCBS is a concrete way to advance economic equity and racial equity in the state.</p>

In 2022, **One in Five families** reported that they **cannot afford additional needed supports** for their family member with disabilities. **On average, caregiving costs families \$7,424 per year**

Impact of Disability on Family Members



¹ The Relationship Between Unmet Need for HCBS and Health and Community Living Outcomes <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1936657421001953>

² Reducing Costs for Families and States by Increasing Access to HCBS <https://heller.brandeis.edu/community-living-policy/images/reducing-cost-hcbs.pdf>

³ Direct Care Workers in the US: Key Facts <https://www.phinational.org/resource/direct-care-workers-in-the-united-states-key-facts-2023/>

⁴ National Alliance for Caregiving & AARP; Community Living Policy Center <https://www.caregiving.org/research/caregiving-in-the-us/>

⁵ AARP <https://www.aarp.org/pri/topics/ltss/family-caregiving/family-caregivers-cost-survey/>