

# Business Case for Community Based Crisis Management in Georgia

## Short Advocacy Message

Georgia Senate Appropriations 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.

Here are key business-focused points to share with your legislators:

- Building institutional beds addresses the most expensive point in the system: crisis and incarceration, but not the root cause which makes it inefficient in the long haul.
- Community-based NOW/COMP waivers cost significantly less per person than institutional or jail-based care.
- It is estimated that up to 40% of people in jail during behavioral health incidents may also have developmental disabilities, meaning unmet IDD needs are driving higher corrections and emergency system costs.
- Funding **at least 1,271 waivers at \$132 million** is a strategic upstream investment that reduces: Emergency room visits, Law enforcement involvement, Incarceration costs, Psychiatric hospitalization
- Supporting families at home strengthens workforce participation, caregivers can remain employed instead of leaving jobs to provide unpaid full-time care.
- Investing in community support keeps dollars in local economies by funding provider agencies, creating direct support professional jobs, and stabilizing the disability services workforce.
- Prevention costs less than crisis response and produces better outcomes for families and communities in the long run.

The hospital allocation is in the 2026 Amended budget, being conferenced NOW! There is still time to contact your legislator about the need for waivers!

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

The 2026 Amended Budget is being conferenced NOW. There is still time to contact your legislator and urge them to fund at least 1,271 NOW/COMP waivers.

