

# Social 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 social-focused points to share with your legislators:

- 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 1271 WAIVERS** for people most in need on the **NOW COMP WAITING LIST** and staff to support this effort, at **\$132 MILLION**.
- Supporting the needs of families would save money, keep families intact and keep communities safe.
- Families have been waiting too long for these critical supports.

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.

