



WAIVERS & WAGES

NOW/COMP waivers provide supports that allow Georgians with disabilities to live in their communities. Currently, there are approximately 226,000 caregiving families supporting someone with intellectual or developmental disabilities in Georgia. This accounts for approximately 6% of all Georgia households.

There is a high bar to be eligible for NOW or COMP and only a limited number of Georgians with developmental disabilities qualify.

(AS OF AUGUST 2022, 13,061 GEORGIANS WERE RECEIVING WAIVERS.)

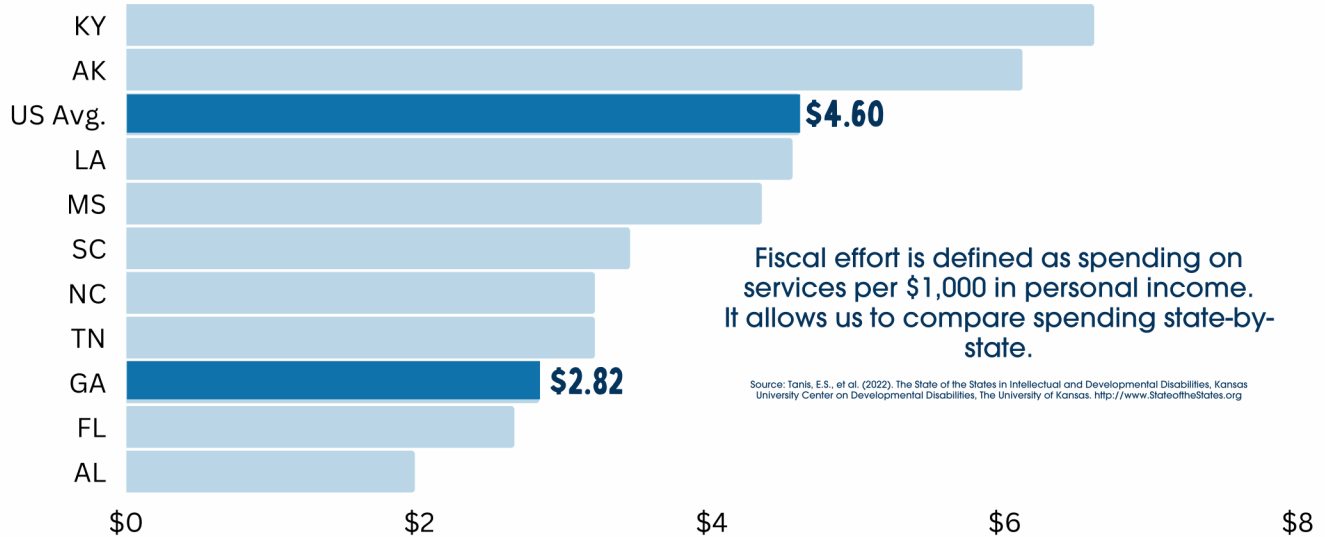
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GEORGIANS ARE CURRENTLY ON THE WAITLIST TO RECEIVE A WAIVER

THERE IS A CRITICAL NEED TO INVEST IN NOW AND COMP WAIVERS FOR GEORGIANS AND LIVABLE WAGES FOR THE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS THAT SUPPORT THEM.

HISTORICALLY, GEORGIA'S INVESTMENT IN ID/DD SERVICES HAS BEEN LOW. GEORGIA'S FISCAL EFFORT IS LOWER THAN MOST STATES IN THE REGION AND ONLY 61% OF THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

FY19 FISCAL EFFORT FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGION



INVESTING IN WAIVERS & WAGES HAS MANY ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

Waivers boost family stability by giving caregivers the chance to obtain or improve employment.

Livable wages help providers to add & retain employees, who contribute to local economies.

Waivers empower people with disabilities to contribute to their communities through employment.

RECENT EXAMPLES OF STATE INVESTMENT IN WAIVERS

Oklahoma and Arkansas both funded their entire waitlists (5,200 and 3,200 respectively) in 2022.

Florida has made historic investments in two years in a row; they appropriated ~\$154million to fund 3,000 new waiver slots over 2021 and 2022.



ADVOCACY AT THE CAPITOL THIS YEAR

1

Fund ~2,400 new NOW/COMP waivers for \$65 million in FY 2024 budget.

(Recommendation of the bipartisan 2022 Senate Study Committee on People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and Waiver Access.)

2

Raise Direct Support Professionals wages in the FY 2024 budget.

(We support the updated SPADD recommendation of \$18.86 an hour, the 75th percentile of DBHDD rate study.)

3

Create the ID/D HCBS Commission on Reform and Innovation. Ensure the creation and funding of a 2 to 5 year plan to fully fund the waiver waiting list.

(Creation of the Commission is the recommendation of the bipartisan 2022 Senate Study Committee on People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and Waiver Access.)

Georgia currently has a current \$6.6 billion dollar budget surplus. Just 0.7% of this surplus could fund 2,400 new waiver slots. An investment of just \$25 per taxpayer could fund about 5,500 new waiver slots.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT:



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