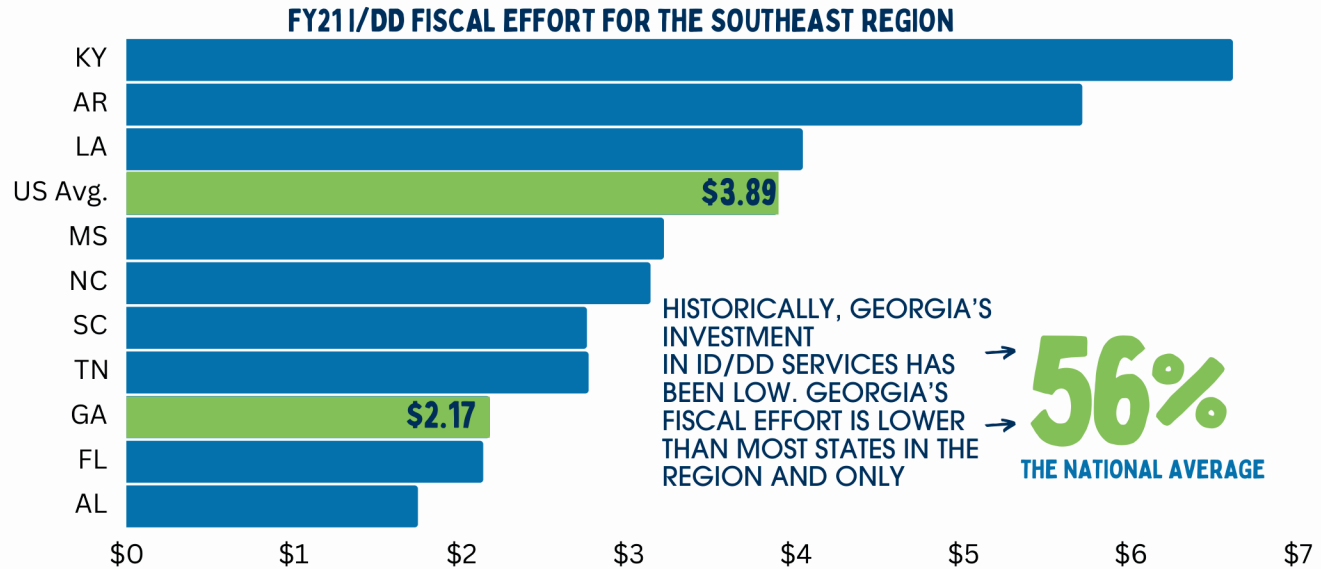


WAIVERS & WAGES: THE TIME IS NOW

to make an overdue investment in waivers for Georgians with disabilities and wages for the direct support professionals that support them.



Fiscal effort is defined as spending on services per \$1,000 in personal income. It allows us to compare spending state-by-state.

Source: Tanis, E.S., et al. (2023). The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities, The University of Kansas. <http://www.StateoftheStates.org>

LACK OF FUNDING HAS NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND PROVIDERS

Providers are turning people with disabilities away because they **cannot find staff to support them.**

Hospitals are nearing capacity including **people with disabilities who are being abandoned** in emergency rooms.

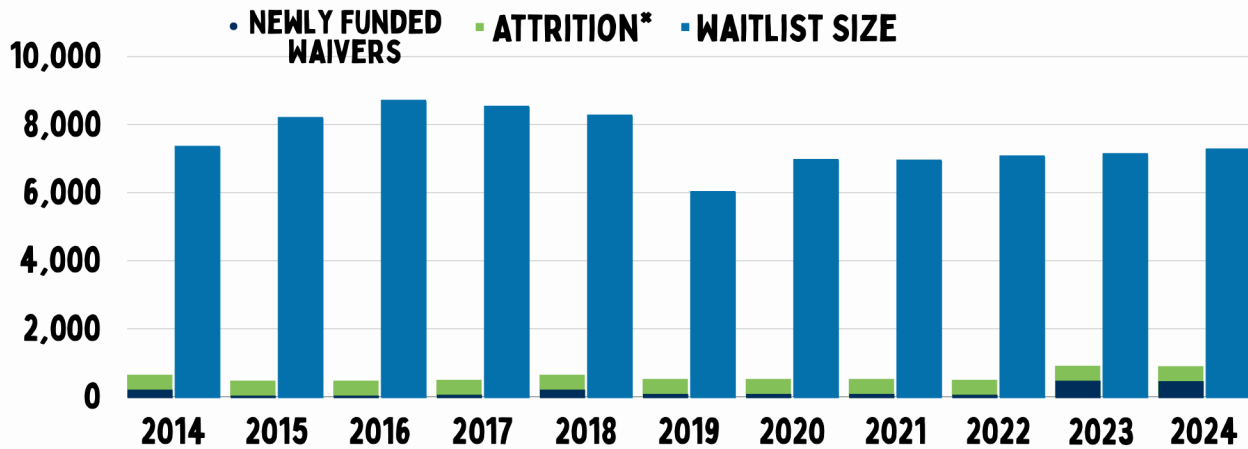
The Direct Support Professional (DSP) turnover rate hovers **around 50% and vacancy rates at around 30%** for some agencies.

NOW/COMP waivers provide supports that allow Georgians with disabilities to live in their communities. There is a high bar to be eligible for NOW or COMP and only a limited number of Georgians with developmental disabilities qualify.

Currently, we have 7,300 people on the waitlist.



GEORGIA'S INVESTMENT IN HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVERS



*DBHDD estimates that roughly 400 individuals 'roll off' of NOW/COMP waivers annually. This attrition is largely attributed either to mortality or moving out of the state, and the funds are reallocated as waivers to individuals on the waitlist.

FULLY FUNDING WAIVERS AND WAGES HAS MANY BENEFITS

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

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.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

- 1** Fund 2,400 new NOW and COMP waivers in the FY25 budget (\$65 Million).
- 2** Support the Governor's and DBHDD's commitment to fully funding the Rate Study.
This year, the Governor's Budget allocated \$79 million towards DBHDD's provider rate study. DBHDD has committed to make up the remaining \$28 million from existing ARPA funds. Once this funding is received, providers can start paying direct support professionals a livable wage. This will increase provider capacity for waiver services.
- 3** Create a commission for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Legislation is currently pending (SB 198).

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



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