**Funding for Home and Community Based Services**

The Georgia Council on Aging and CO-AGE members advocate for a $10 Million increase in funding for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS.)

The Non-Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Program provides services that promote health and independence.  HCBS programs consistently demonstrate in-home services help older Georgians stay in their homes and communities.

On average, these services can help delay premature nursing home care by 51 months. In-home services include home delivered meals, adult day care, respite care, home modification and more.

During the pandemic, requests for HCBS services dramatically surged.

* The rising costs of food and gas prices are stressors on services such as home-delivered meals and transportation programs.
* Seniors on fixed incomes are faced with increased costs of necessities such as food.
* In-home services cost a fraction of the cost of a nursing home bed;
* Non-Medicaid in-home care averages $2145 per person annually, far less than the cost of a nursing home bed;

The longer a person is able to stay at home with supports, the more it saves taxpayer dollars.

The Georgia Council on Aging (GCOA) and the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia’s Elderly (CO-AGE) recommends that HCBS funding be increased by $10 Million. It would keep more older adults in their homes, maintain service provider jobs in local communities, and leverage public-private partnerships and solutions to the challenge of meeting the needs of an expanding older population.