

Fiscal Year 2027 Governor's Recommended Budget
Total State Funds: \$38.5 Billion

Statewide

- **Reduce funds** to reflect a reduction in the employer contribution rate for the State Health Benefit Plan from 29.454% to 20.264%.
- **Increase funds** for the Teachers Retirement System to reflect an increase in the actuarially determined employer contribution from 21.91% to 22.32%.
- **Reduce funds** to reflect an adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 66.40% to 66.63%. (DBHDD, DCH, DHS, DPH)
- Provide funds to enhance the retirement benefit for select POST certified law enforcement officers who are members of the Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan (GSEPS) by increasing employer contribution to the savings plan. (Various agencies)

Judicial Council

- **\$209,500 Added** for Civil Legal Services for families of indigent patients.
- **\$586,649 Added** for continuity for the Georgia Case Management System project.

Juvenile Courts

Grants to Counties for Juvenile Courts

- **\$493,168 Added** to reflect an increase in the Judicial Retirement System employer contribution rate due to the passage of HB 85 (2025 Session).

Prosecuting Attorneys

District Attorneys

- **\$5.07 Million Added** to implement a new salary structure for district attorneys.
- **\$3.94 Million Added** for a one step increase for assistant district attorneys to support recruitment and retention needs
- **\$5.07 Million Added** to annualize FY2026 revised pay scale and one step increase for assistant district attorneys.
- **\$414,015 Added** to annualize FY2026 salary increases for recruitment and retention of prosecution support.
- **\$11.45 Million Added** for year two of a revised pay scale for assistant district attorneys to support recruitment and retention needs.
- *Budget Direction:* Increase intra-state government transfers to reflect a change in the Department of Human Services Child Support Services contract (Department of Human Services grant funds).

Superior Court Judges

- **\$9.64 Million Added** to annualize the cost of implementing the new judicial salary structure pursuant to HB 85 (2025 Session).
- **\$6.23 Million Added** to increase Superior Court Judge salaries to the allowable annual salary pursuant to the funding formula in HB 85 (2025 Session).

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Dept. of Agriculture**Consumer Protection**

- **\$1.05 Million Added** for personnel to reflect increased retention of Consumer Protection positions.

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**Adult Addictive Diseases Services**

- *Budget Direction:* Replace state general funds with other funds for the expansion of Hepatitis C screening services at core behavioral health provider sites. (\$142,919)
- **\$50,000 Eliminated** for one-time funding for Hope House.

Adult Developmental Disability Services

- **\$3.21 Million Added** to annualize the cost of 150 New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) slots for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **\$2.32 Million Added** for 100 additional slots for the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Adult Forensic Services

- **\$1.62 Million Added** to annualize the operations of a 30-bed Project New Hope forensic stepdown unit at the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital in Columbus.
- **\$250,000 Restored** for jail-based competency restoration in Cobb County Jail.

Adult Mental Health Services

- **\$2.36 Million Added** for mobile crisis response teams to support mental health crisis services.
- **\$2.93 Million Added** to support mental health crisis intervention services through the '988' hotline.
- **\$9.32 Million Added** for the Georgia Housing Voucher Program for 404 additional housing vouchers to achieve substantial compliance with and termination of the behavioral health requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

- **\$1.14 Million Added** to annualize the operational cost of the new Gateway child and adolescent crisis stabilization unit in Savannah.

Dept. of Community Affairs**Departmental Administration**

- **\$2.77 Million Added** to reduce allocated administrative costs to affordable housing and community development programs resulting from unfunded cost-of-living adjustments and reduced federal funding.

Housing Initiatives

- **\$2 Million Reduced** in one-time funding for the State Housing Trust Fund and recognized instead in AFY 2026.

Dept. of Community Health**Departmental Administration**

- **\$121,678 Added** for eight Katie Beckett Medicaid case workers to address increased workload.
- **\$20,222 Added** for a \$3,000 salary enhancement for Katie Beckett Medicaid caseworkers for parity with Department of Human Services Medicaid caseworkers.

- **\$64,991 Added** for one position in the Medical Assistance Plans division to continue oversight of long-term care.
- **\$300,000 Eliminated** in one-time funds for the submission of a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to change any rules, regulations, or policies necessary to allow for the use of Medicaid funding for Graduate Medical Education slots.

Healthcare Access and Improvement

- **\$250,000 Eliminated** in one-time funding for telecare and maternal health programs
- **\$407,000 Eliminated** in one-time funding to establish a regional vascular center allowed by passage of HB 1339 (2024 Session)
- **\$3 Million Eliminated** in one-time funding for behavioral and mental health services stabilization and augmentation.

Medicaid - Aged Blind and Disabled

- **\$307.85 Million Added** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- **\$5.14 Million Added** for skilled nursing centers to reflect 2024 cost reports.
- **\$33.05 Million Added** for the hold harmless provision in Medicare Part B premiums.
- **\$11.19 Million Added** for the Medicare Part D Clawback payment.
- **\$11.82 Million Reduced** for high-cost drugs based on projected utilization.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$7,638,097 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$30,458,227 in nursing home provider fees with state general funds.
- **\$2.65 Million Added** for ambulance provider fees based on projected revenue.

Medicaid - Low Income

- **\$22.66 Million Reduced** in Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$67,389,454 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.

PeachCare for Kids®

- **\$1.69 Million Reduced** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- **\$1.02 Million Reduced** to reflect an adjustment in the Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) from 76.48% to 76.64%.

State Health Benefits Plan

- **\$1.26 Million Added** to implement HB 196 (2025 Session).
- **\$3.1 Million Eliminated** for interim one-time funding for a \$3 per prescription dispensing fee for independent pharmacists awaiting the outcome of an SHBP Prescription Benefit Manager (PBM) study.
- *Budget Direction:* Recognize an increase in formula funds (\$207,516,476) in the Department of Education, Department of Early Care and Learning, and Georgia Military College, to reflect an increase in the employer healthcare contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) for certified school employees and lead and assistant teachers to \$2,028, effective July 1, 2026
- *Budget Direction:* Increase the employer health care contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) for non-certified school employees to match the PMPM for certified school employees, effective July 1, 2026, to maintain the financial stability of the plan.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Graduate Medical Education

- **\$2.1 Million Added** for 105 new residency slots in primary care medicine.
- *Budget Direction:* Redirect existing funds (\$734,438) for grants for graduate medical education (GME) programs based on the use of Medicaid Reimbursements for new residency slots pending approval of a State Plan Amendment to fund the Rural Surgery Initiative and child and adolescent psychiatry slots at Augusta University.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Mercer School of Medicine Grant

- **\$12,567 Added** for the seventh year of the seven-year plan for Mercer School of Medicine's medical school campus in Columbus.

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Healthcare Education Programs

- **\$2.42 Million Added** for medical student capitation for 380 certified Georgia residents at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM).
- **Budget Direction:** Change program name from Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Undergraduate Medical Education to Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Healthcare Education Programs to include nursing education.

Georgia Composite Medical Board

- **\$500,000 Eliminated** in one-time funding to seed program to address career fatigue and wellness of healthcare professionals pursuant to HB 455 (2024 Session).

Dept. of Corrections

Health

- **\$47.88 Million Added** for the physical health contract for a per diem increase (\$23,627,395) and to reflect the opening of additional beds (\$24,253,500).
- **\$1.5 Million Added** for the dental health contract to increase staffing ratios.
- **\$1.92 Million Added** for the mental health contract to increase staffing ratios.
- **\$3.68 Million Added** for the pharmacy contract for a per diem increase.

Private Prisons

- **\$1.05 Million Added** for Jenkins Correctional Institution and Riverbend Correctional Institution to fully utilize available beds at correct tier rate added in HB 68 (2025 Session).
- **\$4.23 Million Added** to add 160 private prison beds at Coffee Correctional Institution and 103 private prison beds at Wheeler Correctional Institution.

State Prisons

- **Budget Direction:** Utilize existing funds (\$10,793,600) for managed access and drone detection systems to prevent contraband in facilities
- **\$26.82 Million Added** for additional correctional officer positions to improve staff to offender ratios based on improved retention.
- **\$1.24 Million Added** to annualize personnel for the Over Watch and Logistics (OWL) Unit.
- **\$39.79 Million Added** for additional programming at Metro Reentry Facility.
- **\$1.52 Million Added** for operations at Lee Arrendale State Prison.
- **\$5.52 Million Added** for additional technology costs for the Over Watch and Logistics (OWL) Unit to enhance safety, security, and technology.
- **\$953,033 Added** for required staff needed to meet accreditation requirements to operate a high school diploma program.
- **\$1.76 Million Added** for operations at five modular correctional units

Dept. of Defense

Youth Educational Services

- **\$1.01 Million Reduced** in state funds match to reflect a loss of federal funding from lower graduation targets.

Dept. of Early Care and Learning

Pre-K Program

- **\$5.88 Million Added** in formula funds to reflect an increase in the health insurance employer contribution per-member-per-month (PMPM) rate for eligible employees from \$1,885 to \$2,028 effective July 1, 2026.

- **\$12 Million Added** for year three of a four-year phase in to reduce classroom size from 22 to 20 students to improve instructional quality.

Dept. of Education

Agricultural Education

- **\$268,157 Eliminated** for camp-affiliated staff.

Charter Schools

- **\$2 Million Eliminated** in one-time funds for completion schools planning grant for Southern Rivers Completion High School.
- **\$500,000 Added** for grants to school systems to encourage the authorization of locally approved charter schools pursuant to SB 82 (2025 Session (Total Funds: \$1,000,000)).

Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS)

- **\$2.47 Million Reduced** in formula funds based on enrollment and training and experience.

Non-Quality Basic Education (Non-QBE) Formula Grants

- **\$399,652 Added** in formula funds for Residential Treatment Facilities based on attendance.
- **\$1.24 Million Added** in formula funds for Sparsity Grants based on enrollment data.
- **\$2 Million Eliminated** in one-time funds for character education programming.
- **\$64,000 Added** for custodian supplement grants.

Nutrition

- **\$84,408 Added** in formula funds for school nutrition.

Pupil Transportation

- **\$38.57 Million Added** for pupil transportation formula grants to reflect updated bus counts and operations.
- **\$79,200 Reduced** to reflect ongoing operating costs for required bus driver safety training
- *Budget Direction:* Utilize \$15,155,852 in existing funds from an AFY 2022 appropriation for bus replacement and safety equipment to provide funds to local education agencies to replace 172 out-of-cycle buses
- *Budget Direction:* Recognize the use of \$9,844,148 in Volkswagen Settlement funds to replace 98 out-of-cycle buses pursuant to the State's 2024 Mitigation Plan Update.

Quality Basic Education Equalization

- **\$258.9 Million Added** in formula funds for Equalization grants.

QBE Local Five Mill Share

- **\$50.15 Million Reduced** to adjust funds for the Local Five Mill Share.

Quality Basic Education Program

- **\$9.3 Million Added** for enrollment growth and training and experience.
- **\$44.69 Million Added** for the State Commission Charter School supplement for a total of \$309,966,618.
- **\$456,997 Reduced** in formula funds for differentiated pay for newly certified math and science teachers.
- **\$1.63 Million Added** for the Completion Special Schools supplement.
- **\$630,085 Reduced** for the charter system grant.
- **\$14.48 Million Added** for the Special Needs Scholarship based on enrollment growth.

Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs)

- **\$219,679 Added** in formula funds for Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) based on enrollment.

School Nurse

- **\$867,401 Reduced** in formula funds for school nurses.

State Schools

- **\$2.37 Million Reduced** for training and experience.

Student Support Services

- **\$15.28 Million Eliminated** in one-time pilot funds to districts for targeted support to economically disadvantaged students.
- **\$1.55 Million Added** in formula funds for grants for social work services.
- **\$1.3 Million Added** for mental health support grants to reflect accurate count of middle and high schools.

Technology/Career Education

- **\$750,000 Added** for high-demand equipment grants.

Governor's Office***Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA)***

- **\$1.43 Million Added** to meet federal matching requirements for emergency preparedness.
- **\$1 Million Transferred** from the Georgia Bureau of Investigations to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency for gang case management system support.
- **\$1 Million Transferred** funds from the Department of Public Safety to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency for the protection of communities through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

- **\$5.01 Million Added** for ongoing operational costs associated with new responsibilities to support Top State for Talent initiatives including a Career Navigator system.
- **\$445,200 Added** for personal services and operating cost for three new policy and reporting positions.

Governor's Office of Student Achievement: Governor's School Leadership Academy

- **\$2.62 Million Eliminated** for the Governor's School Leadership Academy.

Governor's Office of Student Achievement: Literacy Initiative Coordination

- **\$2.03 Million Eliminated** in one-time funds for research contract.
- **\$1.58 Million Added** in one-time funds to conduct phase two research and landscape analysis, conduct a leadership pilot with selected RESAs, and establish a framework for the Georgia READS community collaborative.

Dept. of Human Services***Child Support Services***

- **\$456,374 Added** for judicial circuit contracts to restore FY 2021 budget reductions.

Child Welfare Services

- **\$371,500 Transferred** for community action teams to deter child welfare involvement from Out-of-Home Care to Child Welfare Services to align budgets with expenditures.
- **\$50,000 Reduced** for technology platform for community service referral to reflect projected expenditures.

Departmental Administration (DHS)

- **\$3,195 Reduced** to reflect an adjustment in the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) from 76.48% to 76.64%.
- **\$5.93 Million Added** to reflect a reduction in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administrative reimbursement from 50% to 25%.

Federal Eligibility Benefit Services

- **\$40.43 Million Added** to reflect a reduction in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administrative reimbursement from 50% to 25%.

- **\$12 Million Added** for a SNAP payment accuracy innovation effort to reduce the SNAP payment error rate.

Out of Home Care

- **\$6.23 Million Transferred** for a Commercial Sexual Exploitation Recovery Center (CSERC) from the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission to the Out-of-Home Care program to align expenditures with program purpose and allow for maximization of federal matching
- **\$122,759 Reduced** to reflect an adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 66.40% to 66.63%.
- **\$300,000 Eliminated** for one-time funding for essential clothing and supplies for foster youth.
- **\$250,000 Eliminated** for one-time funding to place foster youth closer to their biological families.
- **\$371,500 Transferred** for community action teams to deter child welfare involvement from Out-of-Home Care to Child Welfare Services to align budgets with expenditures
- **\$21.29 Million Total Added** as follows: (\$19,401,801) for utilization growth and increased costs of care and transfer funds from the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission (\$1,892,348) to recognize savings from federal match for the above referenced CSERC and increase funds (\$19,401,801) for utilization growth and increased costs of care.

Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission

- **\$2,105 Added** to reflect FY 2025 collections of financial penalties for sex trafficking and sexual offenses pursuant to O.C.G.A. 15-21-208 and adult entertainment establishment assessments pursuant to O.C.G.A. 15-21-209.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Regional Investigative Services

- **\$287,300 Added** to annualize three human trafficking positions.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

- **\$3.13 Million Reduced** for the offset of the loss of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2025.
- **\$250,000 Eliminated** for one-time funding for gang prevention activities in Chatham County.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council - Council of Accountability Court Judges

- *Budget Direction:* Utilize Opioid Trust Funds for court grants to locals and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Dept. of Public Health

Georgia Public Health Laboratory

- **\$24.87 Million Transferred** as follows: laboratory funds and positions from the Epidemiology program (\$334,186), Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services program (\$456,117), Infant and Child Health Promotion program (\$10,239,731), Infectious Disease Control program (\$10,997,494), Inspections and Environmental Hazard Control program (\$831,259), and the Public Health Formula Grants to Counties program (\$2,007,773) to establish the Georgia Public Health Laboratory program to consolidate statewide laboratory services, align program structure with agency responsibilities, and reduce administrative burden.

Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services

- **\$2 Million Added** to expand the maternal home visiting program to an additional 21 counties to increase access to maternal fetal medicine in rural communities.

Dept. of Public Safety**Office of Highway Safety**

- **\$2.02 Million Added** for driver's education and training in accordance with FY 2025 Joshua's Law Collections.

University System of Georgia Board of Regents**Public Libraries**

- **\$458,862 Added** for the public libraries' formula based on an increase in the state population.

Public Service/Special Funding Initiatives

- **\$2.81 Million in state funds added** and existing funds recognized (\$375,000) to establish the Institute of Civic Thought and Leadership at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Total Funds: \$3,180,000).

Teaching

- **\$218.61 Million Added** to reflect a 4.95% increase in enrollment (\$216,513,365) and a 0.56% increase in square footage (\$2,096,877).
- **\$4.69 Million Eliminated** in start-up funds for Augusta University and Georgia Southern University medical school expansion.
- **\$9.55 Million Added** for advance funding for the University of Georgia School of Medicine based on Group 5 credit hour earnings

Georgia Student Finance Commission**College Completion Grants (Lottery Funds)**

- **\$1 Million Added** to support updated grant eligibility requirements for students at Technical College System of Georgia institutions pursuant to HB 38 (2025 Session)

Dual Enrollment

- **\$27.55 Million Added** to meet projected need.

Foster Care Scholarship

- **\$2.5 Million Added** to establish the Georgia Foster Care Scholarship pursuant to SB 85 (2025 Session).

Georgia Military College Scholarship

- **\$756,237 Added** to meet projected need to provide three scholars per congressional district.

HOPE Scholarships – Private Schools (Lottery Funds)

- **\$3.18 Million Added** to meet projected need.

HOPE Scholarships – Public Schools (Lottery Funds)

- **\$54.83 Million Added** to meet projected need.

North Georgia Military Scholarship Grants

- **\$671,954 Added** to meet projected need to provide three scholars per congressional district.

Tuition Equalization Grants

- **\$3.99 Million Added** to meet projected need.

Technical College System of Georgia**Technical Education**

- **\$34.15 Million Added** to reflect a 9.4% increase in enrollment (\$33,594,041) and a 0.9% increase in square footage (\$553,441).

Technical Education: High-Cost Programs - Special Project

- **\$748,416 Reduced** to reflect a 1.8% decrease in enrollment for high-cost programs.

Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission – Capital Projects Fund

- **\$715.74 Million Reduced** funds for one-time projects appropriated in the FY 2026 budget (HB 68, 2025 Session).
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Georgia General Obligation Debt Sinking Fund***State Board of Education (K-12 Local School Facilities)***

- 5 bonds | \$25,511,359 total
 - Financing educational facilities for county and independent school systems

Department of Education (State-level projects)

- 1 bond | \$118,065 total
 - Department of Education capital projects (not further specified)

Board of Regents – University System of Georgia (USG)

- 21 bonds | \$19,986,540 total
 - University System of Georgia capital projects (campus facilities, renovations, equipment; not itemized in excerpt)

Board of Regents – Georgia Military College

- 4 bonds | \$102,786 total
 - Georgia Military College capital projects

Board of Regents – Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission

- 4 bonds | \$290,675 total
 - Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission facilities and infrastructure

Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG)

- 13 bonds | \$9,970,241 total
 - Technical college facilities, renovations, and equipment statewide

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

- 1 bond | \$222,240 total
 - Vocational rehabilitation facilities and capital improvements

Department of Public Health

- 1 bond | \$106,953 total
 - Public health facilities and capital improvements

Department of Veterans Service

- 1 bond | \$169,921 total
 - Veterans service facilities and capital improvements

Department of Corrections

- 1 bond | \$3,937,352 total
 - State correctional facilities and infrastructure

Department of Defense

- 2 bonds | \$1,481,600 total
 - Georgia Department of Defense facilities and infrastructure

Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)

- 5 bonds | \$2,653,318 total
 - GBI facilities, labs, and equipment (specific projects not itemized)

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

- 2 bonds | \$3,967,132 total
 - Juvenile justice facilities and capital improvements

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

- 6 bonds | \$1,164,971 total
 - DPS facilities and equipment (excluding training center)

Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)

- **3 bonds | \$997,464 total**
 - Training center facilities, buildings, and equipment

Department of Labor

- **1 bond | \$623,198 total**
 - Labor department facilities and infrastructure

Department of Agriculture

- **3 bonds | \$3,095,988 total**
 - Agriculture facilities, labs, and capital improvements

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)

- **1 bond | \$3,074,320 total**
 - Loans for local government water, sewer, and solid waste infrastructure

State Forestry Commission

- **3 bonds | \$673,713 total**
 - Forestry facilities, equipment, and infrastructure

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- **2 bonds | \$2,747,514 total**
 - Parks, environmental, and natural resource facilities