

**Fiscal Year 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget**  
**Total State Funds: \$40.55 Billion**

**Statewide**

- **Increase funds** for the Teachers Retirement System to reflect an increase in the actuarially determined employer contribution from 20.78% to 21.91%.
- DBHDD, DCH, DHS, DPH - **Reduce funds** to reflect an adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 66.04% to 66.40%. (\$3,979,722)

**Judicial Council**

***Council of Accountability Court Judges***

- **\$158,750 Added** for personnel for one certification officer position.
- **\$159,375 Added** for personnel for one participant services statewide coordinator position.

***Judicial Council***

- **\$209,500 Added** for Civil Legal Services for families of indigent patients.
- **\$100,000 Added** for grants to legal self-help centers.
- **\$400,000 Added** to annualize the juvenile court case management contract.

**Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

***Adult Developmental Disability Services***

- **\$2.33 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.
- **\$2.33 Million Added** to annualize the cost of 100 New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) slots for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **\$3.24 Million Added** to annualize the operations of the Macon Crisis Stabilization and Diagnostic Center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **\$26.71 Million Added** to annualize the provider rate increases recommended by the New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) provider rate study.

***Adult Forensic Services***

- **\$1.06 Million Added** to annualize the operations of a 30-bed jail-based competency restoration program pilot in Dodge County.
- **\$1.95 Million Added** to operationalize a new 17-bed forensic unit at the Central State Hospital Allen Building in Milledgeville.
- **\$1.19 Million Added** to operationalize a new 20-bed forensic unit at the Georgia Regional Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility in Atlanta.
- **\$1.62 Million Added** to operationalize a new 30-bed Project New Hope forensic step-down unit at the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital in Columbus.

***Adult Mental Health Services***

- **\$12.53 Million Added** to annualize the provider rate increases recommended by the Community Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (CBHRS) provider rate study.
- **\$1.13 Million Transferred** from the DCH to the DBHDD for four licensure programs to match agency roles and responsibilities.

***Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services***

- **\$1.81 Million Added** to annualize the operations of the new Gateway child and adolescent crisis stabilization unit in Savannah.

**Dept. of Community Affairs**

- *Budget Direction:* Change program name from Coordinated Planning to Community Services to consolidate statewide community services under one program.
- **Recognize \$64.01 Million transferred of funds** and positions to consolidate statewide community services, align program structure with agency responsibilities, and reduce administrative burden.
- **Recognize \$162.83 Million transfer of funds** and positions to consolidate statewide housing initiatives, align program structure with agency responsibilities, and reduce administrative burden.
- *Budget Direction:* Change program name from Special Housing Initiatives to Housing Initiatives to consolidate statewide housing initiatives under one program.

**Dept. of Community Health*****Departmental Administration***

- **\$47,869 Added** for three Katie Beckett Medicaid program caseworkers and operating expenses to address increased workload.

***GA Board of Dentistry***

- **\$75,000 Added** for the operating expenses of new licensing software to enhance efficiency in licensure review.

***GA Board of Pharmacy***

- **\$75,000 Added** for the operating expenses of new licensing software to enhance efficiency in licensure review.

***Medicaid - Aged Blind and Disabled***

- **\$41.78 Million Added** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- **\$36.56 Million Added** for new high-cost drugs.
- **\$7.15 Million Added** for skilled nursing centers to reflect 2023 cost reports.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$5,415,201 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$6,108,816 in state general funds with nursing home provider fees.

***Medicaid - Low Income***

- **\$188.64 Million Added** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization.
- **\$21.23 Million Added** for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirement that the state provide 12 months of continuous eligibility for children under the age of 19 in Medicaid effective January 1, 2024.
- *Budget Direction:* Replace \$47,777,273 in state general funds with hospital provider fees.

***PeachCare for Kids®***

- **\$1.58 Million Added** for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirement that the state provide 12 months of continuous eligibility for children under the age of 19 in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) effective January 1, 2024.
- **\$1.21 Million Reduced** for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization.

***State Health Benefits Plan***

- *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, 2025, to maintain the financial stability of the plan.
- *Budget Direction:* Recognize an increase in formula funds (\$177,130,676) in DECAL, and Georgia Military College, to reflect an increase in the employer healthcare contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees and lead and assistant teachers to \$1,885, effective July 1, 2025.
- *Budget Direction:* Reduce funds 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.

**Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Graduate Medical Education**

- **\$1.51 Million Added** for 75 new residency slots in primary care medicine.

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

- **\$500,000 one-time matching funds eliminated** to recognize private fundraising for scholarships for year-four students committed to practicing primary care for five years in rural Georgia.
- **\$565,204 Added** for the sixth year of the seven-year plan for Mercer School of Medicine's medical school campus in Columbus.

**Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Physicians for Rural Areas**

- *Budget Direction:* Reflect a change in the program name to Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Healthcare Practitioner Loan Repayment.
- **\$250,000 Transferred** for the nursing faculty loan repayment program from the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Undergraduate Medical Education program to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce: Physicians for Rural Areas program to include all loan repayment funds under the same program.

**Dept. of Corrections****Across the Agency**

- **Increase funds** for a 4% salary increase for education, chaplain, food service, and maintenance positions to align with statewide averages to improve recruitment and retention.
- **Increase funds** for a six month in-grade promotion step for correctional officer and CSM correctional officer 1 and 2 and to address salary compression to improve career path and retention opportunities.
- **Increase funds** to provide a 4% salary increase for all correctional officer staff in state and private prisons to improve recruitment and retention.

**Detention Centers**

- **\$219,573 Added** for an 8% salary increase for behavioral health counselor positions to align with statewide averages to improve recruitment and retention.
- **\$1.57 Million Transferred** from State Prisons program to Detention Centers program for ongoing capital maintenance and repairs.

**Health**

- **\$2.2 Million Added** for the dental health contract to support increased population.
- **\$8.08 Million Added** for the mental health contract to support increased population.
- **\$6.07 Million Added** for the pharmacy services contract to support increased population.
- **\$14.66 Million Added** for the physical health contract to support increased population.

**Private Prisons**

- **\$5.94 Million Added** to add 188 private prison beds at Coffee Correctional Institution and 258 private prison beds at Wheeler Correctional Institution.

**State Prisons**

- **\$20.19 Million Added** to add 330 correctional officer positions to improve staff to offender ratios.
- **\$15 Million Added** to address critical capital maintenance and repairs.
- **\$15.59 Million Added** for additional facility maintenance personnel and regional support staff to address critical facility maintenance needs.
- **\$1.02 Million Added** for a "tiger team" to support existing GDC locking team to address repairs needed on facility locks, locking controls, and security electronics.
- **\$2.6 Million Added** for skilled craftsman "tiger teams" focused on HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and fabrication needs in facilities.
- **\$3.37 Million Added** for ongoing support of body cameras and tasers for increased facility security.

- **\$1.83 Million Added** to implement an off-site mail screening solution to inhibit contraband and ensure the safety of facility staff.
- **\$2.46 Million Added** for software licenses for additional officer tablets to improve documentation and information sharing on offender management.
- **\$176,326 Added** for the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program contract.
- **\$760,421 Added** for Technical College System of Georgia vocational education contracts.

#### **Transition Centers**

- **\$718,679 Transferred** from State Prisons program to Transition Centers program for ongoing capital maintenance and repairs.

#### **Dept. of Early Care and Learning**

##### **Child Care Services**

- **\$1.54 Million Added** to annualize state match for Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) reimbursement to the 60th percentile of market rates for childcare providers.
- **\$3.93 Million Added** to provide 500 additional state-funded slots in the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program.

##### **Pre-K Program**

- **\$5.26 Million Added** for annual update of teacher training and experience.
- **\$1.21 Million Added** to reflect an increase in health insurance employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified teachers at public Pre-K providers to \$1,885 effective July 1, 2025.
- **\$14.06 Million Added** for year two of a four-year phase in to reduce classroom size from 22 to 20 students to improve instructional quality.

#### **Dept. of Education**

##### **Business and Finance Administration**

- **\$200,000 One-time funds removed** from upgrade the Capital Outlay Program Software (COPS) to integrate public Pre-K classrooms pursuant to SB 233 (2024 Session).

##### **Communities in Schools**

- **\$1 Million in one-time funds removed** from leveraging matching grant funds for program expansion.

##### **Curriculum Development-Special Project**

- **\$339,799 Added** to sustain supplements for school literacy leads at all 1,343 K-3 schools.

##### **Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support (GNETS)**

- **\$1.85 Million Reduced** to reflect a reduction in formula earnings based on enrollment and training and experience.
- **\$330,000 Added** to reflect an increase in the health insurance employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees to \$1,885 effective July 1, 2025.

##### **Information Technology Services**

- **\$3 Million Added** to sustain 400mbps of state-funded bandwidth for all systems through PeachNet.

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

- **\$5.92 Million Added** for Sparsity Grants based on enrollment data.
- **\$543,000 Added** for custodian supplement grants.

##### **Nutrition**

- **\$2.96 Million Reduced** for school nutrition due to a decrease in the number of meals served.

**Preschool Disability Services**

- \$3.48 Million Added based on formula earnings.
- \$793,919 Added to reflect an increase in health insurance employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees to \$1,885 effective July 1, 2025.

**Pupil Transportation**

- \$10.13 Million Added for pupil transportation formula grants to reflect updated bus counts and operating expenses.

**Quality Basic Education Equalization**

- \$112.93 Million Reduced for Equalization grants.

**QBE Local Five Mill Share**

- \$115.88 Million Reduced to adjust funds for the Local Five Mill Share.

**Quality Basic Education Program**

- \$305.9 Million Added for enrollment growth and training and experience.
- \$605,051 Reduced for differentiated pay for newly certified math and science teachers.
- \$34.12 Million Added for the State Commission Charter School supplement.
- \$1.83 Million Reduced for the Completion Special Schools supplement.
- \$313,627 Added for the charter system grant.
- \$172.6 Million Added to reflect an increase in health insurance employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees to \$1,885 effective July 1, 2025.
- \$872,333 Added to fully fund school psychologist ratio at 1:2,420 for all QBE student categories pursuant to HB 283 (2013 Session).

**Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs)**

- \$55,239 Added to reflect an increase in health insurance employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees to \$1,885 effective July 1, 2025.

**State Charter School Commission Administration**

- \$386,351 in transferred funds from the Charter Schools program (\$265,501) and provide additional funds (\$120,850) to implement the provisions of HB 318 (2024 Session).

**State Schools**

- \$135,151 Added for training and experience.

**Technology/Career Education**

- \$383,444 Added for 2 full-time and 2 part-time positions and operating costs to sustain Great Promise Partnership operations as a part of work-based learning programs for at-risk students at the Department of Education.
- \$1.25 Million Added to establish a high-demand equipment grant program for new and expanding career and technical education labs that support instruction for high-demand careers as identified by the State Workforce Board.

**Governor's Office of Student Achievement**

- \$10,000 Added to annualize state participation for newly established regional crisis recovery network at the Southern Regional Education Board to support student mental health in response to significant public safety or natural disaster incidents impacting schools or school systems.

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

- **\$60,899 Added** to expand participation in the Child Support Lien Network to include real property and lump sum payment matching services.

***Child Welfare Services***

- **\$1.5 Million Eliminated** in matching funds for the wraparound services pilot due to the denial of federal funds by the Administration for Children and Families.
- **\$1.72 Million Added** for Court Appointed Special Advocates to replace federal funds deemed ineligible by the Administration for Children and Families.

***Residential Child Care Licensing***

- *Budget Direction:* Utilize existing funds (\$46,550) for one position to address new licensure and regulation responsibilities due to the creation of two new Child Caring Institution types in SB 377 (2024 Session) and HB 1201 (2024 Session).

***Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission***

- **\$120,110 Reduced** to reflect FY 2024 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**

- **\$390,789 Added** to establish a Strategic Threat Assessment Group responsible for addressing threats to public officials, investigating homeland security matters, and partnering with critical infrastructure partners to provide support during major events occurring in the state.
- **\$294,420 Added** to replace federal funds with state funds for three human trafficking positions.
- **\$400,312 Added** to offset the loss of ARPA funds to continue operations at the Receiving Hope Center.
- **\$421,608 Added** for two advocate positions and ongoing maintenance of the End Human Trafficking Georgia 24/7 Hotline.

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council - Council of Accountability Court Judges**

- **\$512,544 Added** for new and existing accountability courts to support population growth.
- **\$17,250 Added** to implement Juvenile Treatment Courts per HB 873 (2024 Session).

**Dept. of Juvenile Justice*****Secure Confinement (Youth Detention Centers – YDCs)***

- **\$401,330 Added** to increase rates and hours for full-time and contracted psychologist and psychiatrist positions.

***Secure Confinement (Residential Youth Detention Centers – RYDCs)***

- **\$798,670 Added** to increase rates and hours for full-time and contracted psychologist and psychiatrist positions.

**Dept. of Law**

- **\$536,928 Added** for four positions to expand the Gang Prosecution Unit to the Savannah region.
- **\$748,143 Added** to annualize six positions to expand the Human Trafficking Unit to the Macon and Augusta regions.

**GA Public Defender Council**

- \$226,517 Added for a Juvenile Conflict Division manager position.

**Dept. of Public Health*****Adolescent and Adult Health Promotion***

- \$100,000 Transferred to support lupus research, data collection, awareness, and education from the DCH to the DPH.

***Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services***

- \$437,000 Added for the cost of mailing Low THC Oil Patient registry cards pursuant to SB 495 (2024 Session).
- \$2.98 Million Added to expand the pilot to provide home visiting in at-risk and underserved rural communities during pregnancy and early childhood to improve birth outcomes, reduce preterm deliveries, and decrease infant and maternal mortality.
- Budget Direction: \$778,239 Added plus existing funds (\$97,701) for a cardiac obstetric program to increase access to maternal fetal medicine.

***Infant and Child Health Promotion***

- Budget Direction: Utilize existing funds (\$1,007,109) for newborn screening to include one additional disorder that has been approved by the Georgia Newborn Screening Advisory Committee.

**Dept. of Public Safety*****GA Public Safety Training Center***

- \$253,202 Added for additional training for jailers in accordance with SB 37 (2024 Session).
- \$478,595 Added for two training instructors and supplies for increased basic law enforcement training.

***Office of Highway Safety***

- \$522,437 Added for driver's education and training in accordance with FY 2024 Joshua's Law Collections.

**University System of Georgia Board of Regents*****Across the System***

- Increase funds for the employer share of health benefits.
- In certain departments: Increase funds to reflect correction for FY 2025 employer share of health benefits.

***Public Libraries***

- \$1.84 Million Added to reflect an increase in health insurance employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees from \$1,580 to \$1,885.
- \$372,012 Added for the public libraries' formula based on an increase in the state population.

***Teaching***

- \$169.53 Million Added to reflect a 2.7% increase in enrollment (\$167,834,602) and a 0.5% increase in square footage (\$1,697,277).
- \$17.75 Million Added to reflect formula correction for FY 2025 cost-of-living adjustment.

***Payments to Georgia Military College Preparatory School***

- \$304,200 Added to reflect an increase in health insurance employer contribution per-member per-month (PMPM) rate for certified school employees to \$1,885.
- \$254,726 Added for enrollment, training, and experience.

**Georgia Student Finance Commission*****Dual Enrollment***

- \$21.44 Million Added to meet projected need.

***HOPE Grant***

- \$17.22 Million Added to meet projected need.

***HOPE Scholarships – Private Schools***

- \$3.31 Million Added to meet projected need.

***HOPE Scholarships – Public Schools***

- \$60.06 Million Added to meet projected need.

***Promise Scholarships***

- \$141.02 Million Added to fully fund the Promise Scholarship Program as established pursuant to SB 233 (2024 Session).

**Technical College System of Georgia*****Technical Education***

- \$33.49 Added to reflect a 10.6% increase in enrollment (\$33,486,954) and a 0.02% decrease in square footage ((\$13,581)).

***Technical Education: High-Cost Programs - Special Project***

- \$15.81 Million Added to reflect growth in aviation, commercial truck driving, and nursing program enrollment at targeted supplemental credit hour rates.
- \$8.47 Million Transferred from Technical Education program to recognize all state funds budgeted to fully fund supplemental earnings for high-cost programs.

**Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission – Capital Projects Fund (a few highlights)**

- \$150 Million Added for capital projects statewide.

***Dept. of Education***

- \$146.01 Million Added for Capital Outlay Program – Regular for local school construction, statewide.
- \$14.9 Million Added for Capital Outlay Project - Low Wealth for school construction, statewide.
- \$17.6 Million Added for Capital Outlay Project - Additional Low Wealth for local school construction, statewide
- \$7.35 Million Added for Purchase vocational and agriculture education equipment, statewide.
- \$20 Million Added for Purchase school buses, statewide.

***University System of Georgia Board of Regents***

- \$4 Million Added for Construction of the renovation of the Harry Downs Building for Nursing and Dental Hygiene, Clayton State University, Morrow, Clayton County.
- \$9.7 Million Added for Construction of the renovation of the Lakeview Nursing and Dental Hygiene building, Georgia Highlands College, Rome, Floyd County.

***Technical College System of Georgia***

- \$13.44 Million Added for System-wide equipment refresh, statewide.



**Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

- **\$10 Million Added** to address Regional State Hospitals' significant capital needs according to the 2023 Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) campus survey partially funded in House Bill 915 (2024 Session), statewide.

**Dept. of Public Health**

- **\$1.17 Million Added** for improvements and renovations to district offices and public health laboratories, statewide.

**Dept. of Community Supervision**

- **\$6.8 Million Added** for design and construct a new facility for the Columbus Day Reporting Center and Field Office, Columbus, Muscogee County.

**Dept. of Corrections**

- **\$6.2 Million Added** for design and construction of a long term, acute care unit at Johnson State Prison, Wrightsville, Johnson County.
- **\$15.5 Million Added** for additional construction at McRae State Prison, McRae-Helena, Telfair County.

**Dept. of Juvenile Justice**

- **\$3.5 Million Added** for additional construction funds for a 56-bed facility expansion, Columbus, Muscogee County.
- **\$82.7 Million Added** for Construction and additional design of a 80-bed facility expansion, Macon, Bibb County.
- **\$5 Million Added** for upgrades to safety and security systems at facilities, statewide.