

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



Total Focus on Amended FY 21 Budget

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January 28, 2021

Key Events This Week

General Assembly will be in four days this week.

The House passed the Amended FY 2021 budget.



Budget meetings:

House Human Resources Subcommittee meet twice last week.

This week House Appropriations Subcommittees and full Committee passed out recommendations for Amended FY '21 budget the first part of the week.

Thursday, Jan 28, the House floor voted on the Amended budget and passed it quickly over to the Senate.

Flow of the session for the next two weeks

The House and Senate are taking the session in two week increments so we have a schedule that will carry us through Feb 8th. They are in Tuesday-Friday (Jan 26-29) this week and Monday-Friday (Feb 1-4) next week with the 13th day of the session falling on Monday Feb 8th. Legislators and staff are being tested twice a week for COVID-19 and if the virus spread becomes untenable they will take a break. Their top priority is to get the Amended FY '21 budget ([HB 80](#)) to the Governor

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Special Announcements



GATES Board Meeting

Friday,
February 5, 2021
ZOOM Call -
10:00 AM

quickly to ensure all agencies have their amended budget to make it through the end of this fiscal year if they do need a long break. Appropriations Chairman England said in his presentation of the FY '21 Amended Budget on Jan 28th that the earliest an amended budget has passed both chambers was Feb 3rd way back in 1994. He said while we won't beat that record we will be very close.

Budget Update - Amended FY '21 moving fast

Last week the House and Senate worked through both budgets in their Joint Budget Hearings. You can view proceedings from last week archived [here](#). There were really no surprises in our area. There were not many state budget funding increases for anything except areas of increased enrollment (Education & Healthcare). All agency commissioners spent the majority of their time reviewing the impact of COVID-19 on their agency and their budget. Dealing with COVID-19 crowded out all other issues.

The House subcommittees wasted no time and all met last week to review the Amended FY '21 budget via zoom. Commissioners and Directors presented their budgets online. In terms of House Human Resources Committee, Chairman Katie Dempsey (R-Rome) held two meetings. You can view the [Thursday Jan 21](#) and [Friday Jan 22](#) meetings online now. Executive Director Chris Wells focused on staffing and changes recommended by the Accenture Report, he made no mention of the category closures. Public Comment for BHDD and GVRA on Friday Jan 22 begins at 1:20 into the committee meeting. Shelly Simmons with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) begins around 1:34. There were no comments on GVRA for the amended budget.

The Amended FY '21 budget is a 2.5% increase over what was proposed last year. Revenue collections are running ahead at the moment, but we are still uncertain what tax season will bring. However, Georgia does have multiple streams of revenue with the largest being income tax, which is still strong, sales tax, also still strong, but motor vehicle fuel tax is lagging and other fees and corporate taxes are not as strong.

On Thursday morning, Jan 28th, the full House received the budget overview provided by Chairman Terry England (R-Auburn) which can be viewed [here](#). The House passed the Amended budget ([HB 80](#)) by a vote of 149-20 and immediately transmitted over to the Senate.

The Senate has already scheduled subcommittee meetings.

Friday, January 29 the Senate Appropriations Human Development Subcommittee meets at 6:30am. Here is the [link](#) were you can log on or view it later.

FY '21 Budget Details

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*Charles Hall,
chall@asqinfo.net*

NOTE: This year's cuts for the amended budget are in bright red while any additions are in green. Overall any increase in funds have come from the federal government due to COVID-19 and various changes to the FMAP formula (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) or from the CARES Act. Cuts or reductions in funding was supplanted with federal funds.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation

Department Administration

Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to help people with disabilities to become fully productive members of society by achieving independence and meaningful employment.

Recommended Change:

Governor made no recommended changes.

House has made a change:

Reduce funds to reflect the start date of the director position. **State Funds (\$109,609)**

VR Program

Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to assist people with disabilities so that they may go to work.

Governor made no recommended changes.

House has made a change:

Provide one-time funds for website development. **State Funds \$150,000 & Total Funds \$704,225**

Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities - Service Impact

Adult Developmental Disabilities Services

Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to promote independence of adults with significant developmental disabilities through institutional care, community support and respite, job readiness, training, and a crisis and access line.

Recommended Changes:

- Recognize **\$22,316,316** in state fund savings from the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and utilize funds for additional community services. (Governor:Yes) (House:Yes)
- Recognize savings from the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and transfer **\$2,107,045**

in state funds to the Direct Care Support Services program for the ongoing maintenance of closed state hospitals.

- Recognize savings from the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and utilize up to \$500,000 for a feasibility study on implementation of a behavioral health crisis center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to be provided to the Office of Planning and Budget, the House Budget and Research Office, and the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office by September 1, 2021. (Governor:Yes) (House:Yes; Utilize \$1,757,154 in savings from the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for a behavioral health crisis center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.)

Total Change State Funds (\$2,107,045) & Federal Funds increase because of COVID-19 FMAP \$22,316,316

Child and Adolescent Developmental Disabilities

Neither the Governor nor the House recommended changes.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Neither the Governor nor the House recommended changes.

Adult Mental Health Services FY 2021

Purpose: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide evaluation, treatment, crisis stabilization, and residential services to facilitate rehabilitation and recovery for adults with mental illnesses.

Recommended Change:

- Recognize \$3,640,544 in state fund savings from the extension of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and utilize funds for additional community services. (Governor:Yes) (House:Yes)
- Reflect \$800,000 in federal funds for the Emergency Response for Suicide Prevention grant to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. (House:Yes)

Total Change State Funds (\$3,640,544) & Federal Funds increase because of COVID-19 FMAP \$800,000

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