

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

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Day 30 - 3/4 Done

Special Announcements:

GATES Board of Directors Meeting:

Friday, April 30, 2021, ZOOM Call - 10:00 AM to noon

Day 30 - 3/4 Done



**Dawn A.
Randolph, MPA**

March 9, 2021

Key Events This Week

Session is 'in' four days this week - March 9-11

Crossover Day DONE - March 8

Both chambers worked through over 100 bills to ensure their priorities would be considered by the other chamber. In the Senate this meant a dozen bills dealing with elections. The House had three rules calendars and was not really focused on one set of issues. Bills ranged from nursing home access by family members during a public health crisis ([HB 290](#)) to various criminal code bills.

Senate Human Development Subcommittee of Appropriations

The Senate committees wasted no time once receiving the FY22 ([HB 81](#)) budget from the House. Chairman Ben Watson (R-Savannah) scheduled an 8am meeting for Tuesday morning, March 9th, after crossover day to hear from agency officials. At the end of the day Monday, we discovered they would also take public comment, although that was not on the agenda. I was able to secure a spot quickly and provide GATES comments during the hearing. I was also able to submit written testimony to the Chair and committee immediately after the meeting from our CRPs regarding the 'line item' request. Thanks to all for the quick turnaround to approve and submit

your written testimony. The recording from the committee meeting is not yet available.

Each agency was very quick in their overview and mainly focused on any changes made by the House. The attached agencies were not asked to present so GVRA Executive Director Chris Wells did not speak.

FY '22 Budget Details - House Recommendations

NOTE: Cuts are in bright red while any additions are in green and house changes in purple. 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. If you want to look at the [budget tracking document](#) you can view it online.

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 made no changes.

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 made no changes.

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.

Governor Recommended Changes:

- Increase fund for 100 additional slots for the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Wavier Program (COMP) for individuals with intellectual disabilities **\$1,957,356.**
- Increase funds to reflect the adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 67.03% to 66.8% **\$1,541,873.**

- Increase funds to reflect the loss of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency **\$10,925,195.**

House Recommended Additions:

- Annualize funds for a behavioral health crisis center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. State Funds **\$7,028,616.**
- Provide funds for a 5% rate increase for intellectual developmental disability providers with approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. State Funds **\$12,343,734.**
- Restore funds for non-wavier services in family support. State Funds **\$4,656,799.**

Total Change - State Funds \$27,528,378 & State Funds increase because of COVID-19 FMAP 10,925,195

House Recommended Language changes without any additional funds:

Pending final approval by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, reflect the department's intent to amend Appendix K to provide a time-limited rate increase for providers serving the intellectual and developmental disability population, including adult day centers and residential services. (H:Yes)

Pending final approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, reflect the intent to continue to serve the estimated 188 individuals who are currently receiving community living supports services who may be impacted by the COMP waiver renewal with alternate service(s). By December 1, 2021, provide a report to the chairs of the House Appropriations Human Resources Subcommittee and the Senate Appropriations Human Development and Public Health Subcommittee on how this population will continue to receive services based on their assessed need following the extended transition period. (H:Yes)

Call for Information

THE PORTAL is a communication tool for GATES and GATES members. If you have stories about your organization, staff announcements, program descriptions, or other information you want to share with other GATES members, please send the info to Charles Hall, chall@asginfo.net



GATES

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251 SL White Blvd.
LaGrange, GA 30241
Phone: 706-298-0477

Visit the GATES Website

GATES | 706-298-0477, 251 SL White Blvd, LaGrange, GA 30241

