



## Legislative Updates as of 01/23/2026

### Week Two Weekly Report

Budget week at the Georgia State Capitol is a pivotal time when lawmakers hear detailed presentations from state agencies outlining priorities, funding needs, and proposed investments for the coming fiscal years. Through committee hearings and testimony, legislators scrutinize spending plans, weigh one-time versus ongoing funding, and assess how budget decisions impact core issues like housing, workforce development, healthcare, disaster recovery, and economic growth. These discussions set the framework for negotiations that ultimately shape the state's final budget and policy direction. Here are some key insights to the budget hearings:

#### **Georgia Department of Economic Development Presentation**

##### Summary of Last Year

- Anecdotally, the State of Georgia has a healthy economy
- Tourism: 82 billion impacts
- Trade: 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row of breaking record for exports coming out of Georgia
- Broke record in investment
- Centers of innovation worked with new business
- Film industry had most successful series wrap in Georgia *Stranger Things*
- Georgia Council for Arts 363 Grants that went to 151 different counties
- Kemp's administration is the most successful/ prosperous decade in job growth, economic diversity
- GDEC: has announced 219 thousand new jobs in Kemps years as Governor

##### Governors Amended Budget:

- Governor added to marketing Section 4"29, 3 million to promote GA tourism
  - FIFA world cup
  - want to make people want to come back to GA
  - World Congress Center, creating a space for tourists to stop and see more about Georgia and all it has to offer
  - Inviting Georgia Businesses to come and participate with stands want to highlight the great assets of Georgia
  - Website upgrades for marketing
  - Business recruitment
- Tourism 110 thousand to go to the Georgia Humanities to focus on the America 250 anniversary

#### **Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD): Commissioner Tanner**

##### **-NOW/ COMP Waiver: 2024 DOAA Audit Resulted in No "Deficient" Findings**

- DBHDD oversees two Medicaid waivers that support Georgians with Intellectual and developmental disabilities:

1. NOW Waiver: Supports individuals living independently or with family, promoting community engagement.
  2. COMP Waiver: Provides residential services for individuals with more intensive support needs.
- The Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) completed a comprehensive audit of the NOW and COMP waivers.
    - Audit has no deficient findings requiring a corrective response.
    - This result reflects exceptional fiscal stewardship, strong internal controls, and rigorous program oversight by DBHDD.

### **-Transforming NOW/ COMP Waiver Access**

- DBHDD's IDD Workgroup Results
  - Major transformation underway to modernize the NOW/ COMP waiver assessment tool and planning list.
  - Designed to better identify urgency, reduce crisis driven and improve funding forecasts.
- Key Improvements
  - New Assessment Tool:
    1. prioritizes face to face home interventions (with hybrid options)
    2. Clear urgency criteria: caregiver loans, complex needs, unsafe housing, service gaps
  - New 3-Tier Planning List:
    1. Immediate
    2. Planning
    3. Forecasting

### **-Forensic Capacity Challenges: A Growing Challenge for Georgia's Jails**

\*DBHDD's forensic mental health services provide court-ordered treatment for individuals whose mental illness prevents the justice process from moving forward.

- Demand on the System is Growing:
  - FY 2025 orders issued:
    1. 2,500+ adult pre-trial evaluations
    2. ~1,400 juvenile evaluations
- IST Determinations are Rising
  - Defendants found incompetent to stand trial (IST) continue to increase statewide
  - FY 2023: 38%
  - FY 2024: 40%
  - FY 2025: 42%
- Individuals Stuck in Jails
  - 800+ individuals currently waiting for forensic services
  - ~70% are being held in local jails while waiting evaluation
  - Local jails are increasingly asked to hold people who need treatment before justice can proceed.

### **-State Psychiatric Hospitals Projected to Reach Full Capacity by 2034**

- 2023 bed capacity study identified the need for 232 more hospital beds and directs DBHDD to reduce reliance on in-patient services.
- DBHDD's hospitals reached nearly 400 admissions in FY 2025
- 69% of individuals are discharged within one year of admission
- Average length of stay (regardless of status) = 18 months
- Average length of stay for NORI = 8 years

### **-Reducing Pressure on Jails: Launching Innovative Programs to Address Backlog**

- Jail Restoration Center in Dodge Co.

- Georgia's first center focused on competency restoration
- Since opening in January 2025:
  - 73 Admissions
  - 45 Discharges
- Average restoration time: 74 days
- This provides fewer days in jail while also resulting in faster resolutions for courts and victims.

### **-Reducing Pressure on State Hospitals: Launching Innovative Programs to Address Backlog**

- Operation New Hope at State Hospitals
  - Step down facility to help individuals transition into community
  - Designed for population with long hospital stays
  - 43 individuals served in 2026
  - 5 fully discharged to community programs
  - Freed up 43 inpatient beds across two hospital campuses throughout 2025
  - This provides alleviates pressure on state hospitals and creates space for those who needs hospital-level care.

### **-\$20.7 Million for New JRC in Augusta: Target Investment to Reduce Jail Backlogs & Protects Hospital Capacity**

- Governor's AFY 2026 Budget Proposal
  - \$20,740,730 to construct a 40-bed standalone Jail Restoration Center
  - Data shows faster restoration and better system flow at Jail Restoration Center (Dodge Co.)
  - This model is scalable, responsible, and cost-effective
- Why it Works
  - Secure state-owned property (Georgia Regional Hospital in Augusta)
  - Available workforce
  - Existing clinical infrastructure & resource sharing
- What This Investment Delivers
  - Expands forensic capacity without consuming hospital beds
  - Reduce jail wait times
  - strengthens public safety statewide

### **-How the Governor's Budget Responds to these Challenges**

- The Governor's AFY 2026 & FY 2027 Budget Reflects Three Clear Priorities
  1. Resolving the entire behavioral health portion of the DOJ settlement
  2. Modernizing how Georgia administers and plans for NOW/ COMP waivers
  3. Expanding forensic capacity to relieve pressure on local jails statewide

### **-Amended FY 2026 Adjustments:**

#### Summary of Statewide Adjustments:

- Increase funds to provide one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 to full-time, regular state employees: **\$21,536,459**
- Adult Addictive Diseases (Replace general funds with other funds for the expansion of Hepatitis C screening services at core behavioral health provider sites): **\$142,919**
- Adult Forensic Service (Restore funds for jail-based competency restoration in Cobb County Jail): **\$243,750**
- Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (Provides funds for a 40-bed forensic facility at East Central Regional Hospital, Augusta, Richmond County): **\$20,740,730**

### **-FY 2027 Adjustments:**

## Summary of Statewide Adjustments:

- Reflect an adjustment in telecommunications and infrastructure rates for the Georgia Technology Authority: **\$84,779**
- Reduce funds to Reflect a reduction in the employer contribution rate for the State Health Benefit Plan from 29.54% to 20.64%: **\$45,327,760**
- Increase funds for the Teachers Retirement System to reflect an increase in the actual determined employer contribution rate from 21.91% to 22.32%: **\$21,733**
- Reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs: **\$1,938,021**
- Reflect an adjustment for GA@Work billings to meet projected expenditures: **\$218,646**
- Adult Addictive Diseases (Replace state general funds with other funds for the expansion of Hepatitis C screening services at core behavioral health provider sites): **\$142,919**
- Adult Addictive Diseases (Eliminate funds for one-time funding for Hope House): **\$50,000**
- Adult Developmental Disabilities (Increase funds to annualize the cost of 150 New Options Waiver and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program slots for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities): **\$3,213,955**
- Adult Developmental Disabilities (Increase funds for 100 additional slots for the New Options Waiver and the Comprehensive Support Waiver Program for individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities): **\$2,318,504**
- Adult Developmental Disabilities (Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment in the Federal medical Assistance Percentage FMAP from 66.4% to 66.63%): **\$2,890,282**
- Adult Forensic Services (Increase funds to annualize the operations of a 30-bed Project New Hope forensic step-down unit at the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital in Columbus): **\$1,618,742**
- Adult Forensic Services (Restore funds for jail-based competency restoration in Cobb County Jail): **\$250,000**
- Adult Mental Health (Increase funds for mobile crisis response teams to support mental health crisis services): **\$2,357,480**
- Adult Mental Health (Increase fund to support mental health crisis intervention services through the '988' hotline): **\$2,933,069**
- Adult Mental Health (Increase funds 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 Settlement Agreement): **\$9,324,320**
- Adult Mental Health (Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage from 66.4% to 66.3%): **\$326,481**
- Children & Adolescent Mental Health (Increase funds to annualize the operational costs of the new Gateway child and adolescent crisis stabilization unit in Savannah): **\$1,140,358**

## **-Combating Georgia's Opioid Crisis Using Settlement Dollars**

- Historic Investment Statewide  
Total of \$111M invested across the first two grant cycles (2024-2025)  
\$42.48M awarded in 2025 to 109 projects statewide  
-\$13.28 million in regional projects and \$29.2 million for projects with a statewide reach
- 2025 Special Highlight: Fulfilling Legislative Intent on Wesley's Law (SB 395 in 2024)  
-Narcan in 2,300+ public schools statewide  
-Partnership with DBHDD, Georgia DOE & local RESAs  
-1,300 schools equipped (Nov. 2025)  
-Remaining schools receiving kits Spring 2026  
-2 Narcan boxes per school

## **-Agency Operations**

- Medicare Advantage (MA) completed procurement and issued new providers and rates for the upcoming year.
- Transitioned to National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC) pricing (HB 196).
- OnMed pilot program located on the balcony level of 2 MLK K Jr.
- Received approval for the Qualified Residential Treatment Program designation.
- Received approval for Therapeutic Care Model.
- Received approval for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers
- In Lieu of Services waiting for CMS approval with rate certifications
- Evaluation and review of the Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly regions.
- Submitted all State Plan Amendments for SFY 2026 rate increases to CMS for approval
- Finalized and submitted Directed Payment Programs for CMS approval and awaiting review
- One Big Beautiful Bill compliance
- Timely submission and award of the Rural Health Transformation Program

## **-Rural Health Transformation: Georgia Rural Enhancement and Transformation of Health (GREAT Health)**

**-Transforming for a Sustainable Health System:** Prepares rural healthcare facilities and providers to qualify for the AHEAD Model

**-Strengthening the Continuum of Care:** Addresses rural-specific behavioral health, improves infrastructure, public health initiatives, expanded support for brain injury, increased access to nutrition services.

**-Connecting to Care to Improve Healthcare Access:** Increase access and opportunities for preventative, primary, specialty, dental, and behavioral healthcare

**-Growing a Highly Skilled Healthcare Workforce:** Increases and incentivizes healthcare workers to practice in rural Georgia

**-Year 1 Notice of Award:** \$218,862,169.63

**-Leveraging Technology for Healthcare Innovation:** Improves care delivery, advances rural progress through technological advances in cybersecurity, electronic medical records, artificial intelligence, and more.

## **-FY 2026 Funds Budget by Program:**

**Aged, Blind and Disabled:** \$2,844,180,261 (State Funds) \$8,697,555,150 (Total Funds)

**Law-Income Medicaid:** \$2,246,744,451 (State Funds) \$8,655,470,189 (Total Funds)

**Attached Agencies:** \$135,270,135 (State Funds) \$143,443,094 (Total Funds)

**PeachCare:** \$122,733,823 (State Funds) \$502,235,943 (Total Funds)

**Departmental Administration:** \$95,091,814 (State Funds) \$482,133,654 (Total Funds)

**Indigent Care Trust Fund:** \$52,882,042 (State Funds) \$1,010,856,696 (Total Funds)

**Healthcare Facility Regulation:** \$27,054,557 (State Funds) \$39,160,134 (Total Funds)

**Healthcare Access and Improvement:** \$20,819,637 (State Funds) \$20,992,225 (Total Funds)

**State Health Benefit Plan:** \$6,011,921 (State Funds) \$5,127,205,733 (Total Funds)

**Pharmacy and Dental Boards:** \$2,402,844 (State Funds) \$2,402,844 (Total Funds)

## **-Amended FY 2026 Governor's Recommendations**

- Statewide Changes:
  - Various (Increase funds to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 to full-time, regular state employees): \$1,565,231 (State Funds)
- Programmatic:
  - Departmental Administration (Increase funds for a \$3,000 salary enhancement for Katie Beckett Medicaid caseworks for parity with Department of Human Services Medicaid caseworkers.): \$5,349 (State Funds)
  - Departmental Administration (Reduce funds for personal services based on the actual state date of new positions): \$18,772 (State Funds)
  - Departmental Administration (The Department Shall submit a 1915(i) waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide a comprehensive suite of services as benefits to members enrolled in the Therapeutic Care Model program): Yes
  - Georgia Board of Dentistry (Increase funds for one vehicle and protective equipment for an additional criminal investigator for which funding is appropriated in FY 2027): \$30,389 (State Funds)
  - Georgia State Board of Pharmacy (Reduce funds for personal services based on the actual state date of new positions): \$47,331 (State Funds)
  - Georgia State Board of Pharmacy (Reduce funds for personal services based on the actual start date of new positions) \$40,389 (State Funds)

## **-Amended FY 2026 Governor's Recommendations: Medicaid Benefits**

- Increase (reduce) funds for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization: \$223,976,684 (Aged, Blind and Disabled), \$141,294,076 (Low-Income Medicaid), \$7,211,990 (PeachCare), \$75,470,618 (Total State Funds)
- Increase funds for the hold harmless provision in Medicare Part B premiums: \$25,818,036 (Aged, Blind and Disabled/ Total State Funds)
- Increase funds for the Medicare Part D Clawback payment: \$3,196,843 (Aged, Blind and Disabled/ Total State Fund)
- Reduce funds for high-cost drugs based on projected utilization: \$11,624,428 (Aged, Blind and Disabled/ Total State Funds)
- Reduce funds for Federal Medical Assistance Percentage savings from FY 2026 provider rate enhancements: \$26,467 (Aged Blind, and Disabled) \$29,825 (Low-Income Medicaid), \$5,626 (PeachCare), \$61,918 (Total State Funds)
- Replace state general funds with hospital provider fees
- Replace nursing home provider fees with state general funds
- Increase funds for ambulance provider fees based on projected revenue: \$2,646,178 (Aged, Blind, and Disabled/ Total State Funds)

## **-FY 2027 Governor's Recommendations: Statewide and Programmatic Changes**

- Healthcare Access and Improvement: Eliminate one time funding for telecare and maternal health programs (\$250,000), Eliminate one-time funding to establish a regional vascular center allowed by the passage of HB 1339 (2024 Session) (\$407,000), Eliminate one time funding for behavioral and mental health services stabilization and augmentation (\$3,000,000)

## **-FY 2027 Governor's Recommendations: Medicaid Benefits**

- **Increase (reduce) funds for growth in Medicaid based on projected utilization:** \$307,653,025 (Aged, Blind and Disabled), \$22,059,227 (Low-Income Medicaid), \$1,680,016 (PeachCare), \$283,505,782 (Total State Funds)

- **Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment in the Federal medical Assistance Percentage from 60.4% and 60.63%:** \$51,687,538 (Aged, Blind and Disabled), \$31,052,108 (Low Income Medicaid), \$1,022,067 (PeachCare), \$83,791,713 (Total State Funds)
- **Increase funds for skilled nursing to reflect 2024 cost reports:** \$5,143,630 (Aged, Blind, and Disabled), \$5,143,630 (Total State Funds)
- **Increase funds for the hold harmless provision in Medicare Part B premiums:** \$33,045,343 (Aged, Blind, Disabled), \$33,045,343 (Total State Funds)
- **Increase funds for Medicare Part D Clawback payment:** \$11,185,493 (Aged, Blind, and Disabled), \$11,185,493 (Total State Funds)
- **Reduce funds for now high-cost drugs based on projected utilization:** \$11,618,678 (Aged, Blind, and Disabled), \$11,618,678 (Total State Funds)
- **Reduce funds for FMAP savings from FY 2026 provider rate enhancements:** \$26,467 (Aged, Blind, and Disabled), \$20,625 (Low-Income Medicaid), \$5,626 (PeachCare), \$61,918 (Total State Funds)
- **Replace state general funds with hospital provider fees**
- **Replace nursing home provider fees with state general funds**
- **Increase funds for ambulance provider fees based on projected revenue:** \$2,646,170 (Aged, Blind, and Disabled), \$2,646,170 (Total State Funds)

#### **-FY 2027 Governor's Recommendations: State Health Benefit Plan**

- Increase funds to implement Hb 196 (2026 Session): \$1,261,920
- Eliminate 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: \$3,100,000
- Recognize an increase in formula funds 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
- Increase the employee health care contribution per member per month 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

#### **Department of Public Health (DPH): Commissioner Tumey**

- 1 State Office
- 18 Public Health Districts
- 159 County Boards of health
- 11 Million Georgians

#### **-Core Public Health Services- All Health Departments**

- Immunizations
  - Children & Adults
- Women's Health Services
  - Family planning and pregnancy testing
  - Breastfeeding support services
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Program
  - Certified Breast Exams, Pap Smears, Mammogram referrals
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
  - e-WIC
  - Nutritional Services

- STD Services
  - Testing and Treatment
- HIV Services
  - Walk-in testing services
  - Treatment
  - Free self-test kits
- TB Services
  - Testing and Treatment
  - Chest X-rays (Referral)
- Children's Services
  - Children 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Babies can't wait
  - Children's Medical Services (CMS)
  - Ears, Eyes, Dental Screening (EED)
  - Lead Screening
- Environmental Health Services
  - Food, Tourists, Public Pool, Body Art, permitting/ sanitation inspections
  - Septic system permitting/ inspections
  - Lead investigations
  - Animal bites, complaints, and education

**-FY 2026 Budget by Funding Source**

- 50% of DPH is federally funded
- 43% of DPH is funded through State General Funds

**-DPH Budget- Key Takeaways**

- Approximately 49% of DPH's state general funds are budgeted for general grant-in-aid to county health departments
- Around 50% of DPH's budget comes from federal funds, including funding for core public health services
  - HIV prevention & treatment
  - Nutrition benefits for low-income women and children
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Clinical programs for women's health, tuberculosis, etc.
- Over 50% of DPH's personnel costs are covered by federal funds

**-Amended FY 2026 Governor's Rec.- One Time Salary Supplement of \$2,000**

- Increase funds to provide a one-time salary supplement of \$2,000 to full-time, regular state employees: \$11,395,829

**-FY 2027 Governor's Rec.- Home Visiting**

- Program: Infant and Child Essential Health Treatment Services
- Expanded home visiting to 21 counties that have a high incidence of preterm births, low birth weights, and Medicaid covered births
- Additionally, 19 of these counties do not have a birthing facility and have limited or no prenatal care
- 96 counties total
- FY 2027 State Funds: \$2 Million

**-Home Visiting Services**

- Clinical assessment- during pregnancy and postpartum as well as for infants
- Communication with obstetrical providers

- Care Coordination
- Education
- Linkage to other services including: Medicaid, transportation, Mental Health Providers, WIC, Children 1<sup>st</sup>, Women's Health Services, Referrals to children's health services, Literacy Education

### **-Georgia Public Health Laboratory (GPHL)**

- Decatur was established in 1997
- Waycross was established in 2007

### **-Newborn Screening**

- Every baby born in Georgia is screened within the first days of life.
- In FY 2025, GPHL received 150,760\* newborn specimens for testing.
- GPHL screens for 35 hereditary disorders that could cause severe illness, physical or developmental disability, or death
- Hearing tests and tests for critical congenital heart disease are done at the birthing facility
- GPHL is the only lab in the state authorized to perform and report these tests.

### **-Emergency Preparedness Unit**

- Bioterrorism-(white powders, Anthrax)
- Chemical Terrorism-(Nerve Agents, Cyanide)
- Biowatch-(Environmental Surveillance System, FIFA World Cup, etc.)

### **-FY 2027 Governor's Rec. – Public Health Laboratory**

Transfer funds and positions to establish the Georgia Public Health Laboratory Program to consolidate statewide laboratory services, align program structure with agency responsibilities, and reduce administrative burden

### **-FY 2027 Governor's Rec.-Bonds**

\$1,155,00 to fund improvements and renovations to district offices and public health laboratories, statewide.

## **Department of Insurance (DOI): Commissioner King**

### **-Fueling State Revenue**

- FY 2025 Premium Tax Distribution:

-Collected ~\$737 Million to State Treasury (43%)

- ~\$973 Million distributed to Cities, Counties (57%)

### **-Uphold Integrity with Criminal Investigations**

- Insurance fraud is the second most costly white-collar crime in America.
- Georgia is ranked third in the nation in Insurance Fraud per capita
- DOI investigates all types of financial and insurance related crimes, such as staged auto accidents, selling of fake policies, fabricating repair bills, providing false information on applications, etc.
- Each year, DOI receives over 14,000 potential fraud referrals

### **-Reinsurance**

- The State Reinsurance Program was designed to reduce insurance premiums, increase affordability of healthcare, and bring health insurance carriers back to Georgia.
- Average premiums have decreased by 12.4%, with rural areas seeing as high as 30% savings.

### **-Georgia Access**

- Beginning in November of 2024, Georgia Access launched as our state's official health insurance marketplace.
  - Georgia is the first state to work with Enhanced Direct Enrollment entities to ensure Georgians have a wide array of options to get enrolled in health coverage.
- Open enrollment 2026
  - Over 1.3M Georgians signed up for health coverage.
  - 191,996 of these consumers were new enrollees
  - More than 17,000 certified agents
  - Approximately 433,000 calls answered

### **-AFY 2026 Budget Requests**

- Remove state funds from two programs (Administration and Enforcement) due to increase in other funds
- Continue support of the Reinsurance Program by investing \$120,987,152
  - User fees generated by Georgia Access offset \$82 million in state funds to Reinsurance
  - Claims experience has increased by approx. 43% year over year.

### **-FY 2027 Budget Requests**

- Remove state funds from two programs (administration and enforcement) from increase in other funds.
- Continue support of the Reinsurance Program by investing \$145,869,408
  - User fees generated by Georgia Access offset \$82 million in state funds to Reinsurance.

## **Department of Labor (DOL): Commissioner Holmes**

### **-Plan to Transformation**

- Customer Centric Services
- Empowered Talent
- Strategic Partnerships
- Technology and Innovation

### **-FY 2027**

- Reduce funds to reflect a reduction in the employer contribution rate for the State Health Benefit plan from 29.454% to 20.264%

## **Department of Community Affairs (DCA): Commissioner Nunn**

Commissioner Nunn outlined the Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) role in delivering affordable housing, homeownership opportunities, and community development across Georgia, while expressing gratitude to Governor Kemp and the General Assembly for their continued support of state employees.

A major highlight of the FY26 budget is a **proposed \$50 million one-time allocation to the State Housing Trust Fund** to address homelessness statewide. These funds would support a **flexible, competitive grant program** focused primarily on **unsheltered homelessness**, with an emphasis on locally driven solutions. Grant applicants would be required to provide **matching funds**, leveraging local and philanthropic resources to

maximize impact. DCA also plans to collect data from grant recipients to better understand the scope of homelessness across urban and rural communities.

The Commissioner also discussed several **OneGeorgia and Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)** initiatives:

- A **\$35 million addition** to GEFA to provide startup capital for newly authorized natural gas project financing under Senate Bill 13.
- Continued success of **OneGeorgia**, which in 2025 awarded **\$12.5 million to 11 communities**, supporting industrial recruitment and more than **3,000 jobs**, particularly in rural areas.
- Ongoing **workforce housing infrastructure grants**, with 11 awarded last year across multiple communities statewide.
- A **\$25 million disaster recovery program** for communities affected by Hurricane Helene, with remaining funds proposed to be transferred to agriculture and forestry budgets to address ongoing timber-related damage.
- A proposed **\$15 million increase** to expand a successful **site development initiative**, supporting Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) sites and related planning grants.

In the **FY27 budget**, Commissioner Nunn highlighted:

- A **\$2.8 million increase** to partially address prior-year cost-of-living adjustments, noting that DCA cannot rely on federal reimbursements to offset rising agency costs.
- The importance of protecting the **Georgia Dream homeownership program**, which supported a record **3,035 first-time homebuyers** last year. Increased agency costs reduce funds available for down payment assistance, potentially impacting future homeownership production.
- Several **one-time funding reductions**, including a **\$2 million reduction to the State Housing Trust Fund** and a **\$500,000 reduction to GEFA**, both reflecting funds previously designated as one-time appropriations.

#### **Tracked Bills:**

[HB923 Pharmacies; furnish patients with written informational material when dispensing certain prescription drugs; require \(House Second Readers, 01/12/2026\)](#)

[HB931 Health; control high costs of prescription drugs; establish framework \(House Second Readers, 01/12/2026\)](#)

[HB810 Insurance; require that final reimbursements to pharmacies for prescription drugs are based on certain formulas \(House Second Readers, 03/25/2025\)](#)

[HB101 State employees; annual public report on the amount of prescription drug rebates and other price concessions applied to premium reductions; provide \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 04/04/2025\)](#)

[HB139 Pharmacies; prohibit drug manufacturer and wholesalers from preventing a licensed pharmacy from acquiring drugs from entities that participate in a particular federal drug discount program \(House Second Readers, 01/29/2025\)](#)

[HB100 Prescription Drug Consumer Financial Protection Act; enact \(House Second Readers, 01/28/2025\)](#)

[SB91 State Employees' Health Insurance Plan; Board of Community Health from entering into, executing, or renewing a contract with any pharmacy benefits manager that owns or has an ownership interest in any retail pharmacy; prohibit \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 04/04/2025\)](#)

[SB111 \(House Withdrawn, Recommitted, 03/27/2025\)](#)

[SB60 Pharmacy Benefits Managers; managers have a duty of care to insureds, health plans, and providers; provide \(Senate Read and Referred, 01/30/2025\)](#)

[SB50 \(Senate Read and Referred, 01/29/2025\)](#)