HCBS waivers are an optional Medicaid service that allow people with disabilities to receive services in the community, as opposed to an institutional setting. Disability services make Georgia strong by supporting people with disabilities and their families to live, work and play across Georgia.

**What are HCBS waivers used for?**

**Housing**
Support people to live in a group home, with a roommate or on their own.

**Employment**
Help people find and keep jobs through long-term, supported employment services.

**Professional Caregivers**
Assist with bathing, dressing, eating and even getting to work.

**Therapies**
Provide for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and behavioral supports.

**What do HCBS waivers mean for Georgia?**

- Makes a small dent in the 6,000+ Georgians on the waiting list for a waiver
- Creates jobs and pumps money back into local economies
- Keeps families out of crisis through respite care and ensuring family members keep their jobs
- Saves the taxpayer money, as HCBS waivers, on average, cost $140,000 less than institutional settings

HCBS waivers are also called:
- NOW/COMP: Intellectual and Developmental Disability
- ICWP: Physical Disability & Traumatic Brain Injury
- SOURCE/CCSP: Elderly and Disabled

**What Georgia Needs:**

$16.3 million increase to DBHDD to fund 650 new NOW/COMP waivers and support level funding to DCH for ICWP, CCSP and SOURCE waivers

Questions? Want to help? Contact GCDD’s Public Policy Director Dawn Alford at 404.805.9741 or dawn.alford@gcdd.ga.gov or GCDD’s Planning & Policy Development Specialist Hanna Rosenfeld at 404.275.8119 or hanna.rosenfeld@gcdd.ga.gov. COMP Waiver recipient Callie shared, “This waiver system can make a huge difference in the quality of someone’s life. It can make life worth living.” —Comer, GA