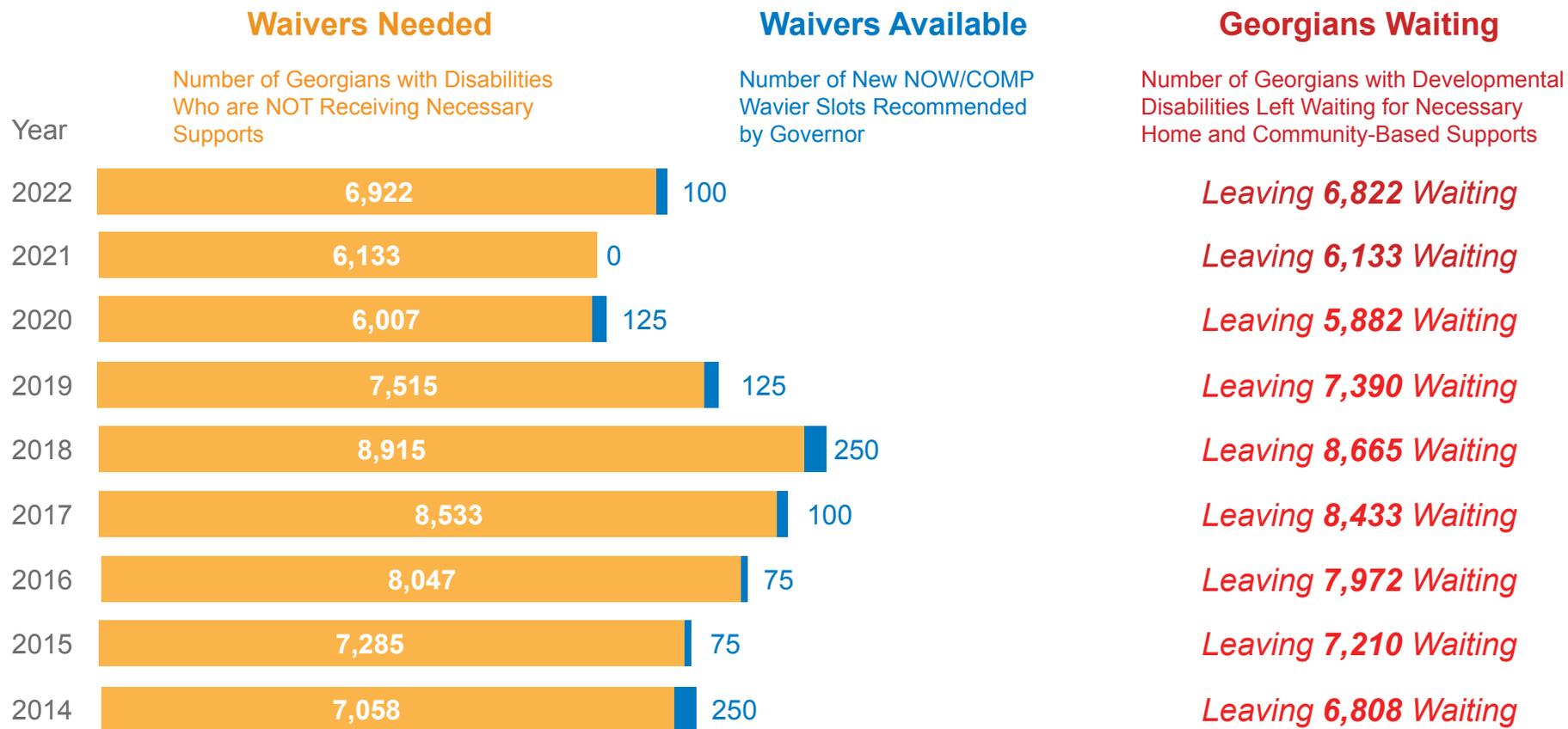


Over the last decade, year after year there has consistently been between 6,000 and 8,500 Georgians with developmental disabilities who are NOT receiving necessary supports they require to live with dignity in our state.



Why Waivers Are So Critical:

Georgia's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs provide individuals with developmental disabilities the ability to receive medically necessary services and support while remaining in their communities, not in institutions or nursing homes. Waiver programs allow for states to "waive" certain Medicaid requirements and pay for home and community-based services as an alternative to institutions. With waiver programs in place, Georgians with developmental disabilities are able to live and thrive in their home communities throughout the state.



Increase Home and Community-Based Waivers for Georgians with Developmental Disabilities



350 Waiver Slots and a New Strategy Will Start to Address the Stagnated Process that Denies Georgians with Developmental Disabilities the Supports to Live and Thrive in Their Home Communities Throughout the State

The Ask

Family members of Georgians with developmental disabilities, Self-Advocates, and their communities are asking the Georgia legislature to provide funding for 250 new NOW/COMP waiver slots, in addition to Governor Kemp's recommendation of 100 new slots. This amounts to a total of 350 new NOW/COMP waiver slots for Fiscal Year 2022, at an approximate cost of 6.7 million dollars.

Why

This will help the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) come closer to its goal of serving 1,950 new waiver recipients by this summer—which is year 3 of its multi-year plan to increase waiver slots.

Moving Forward

Increasing waiver slots by 100-200 each year is not an effective strategy to address the almost 7,000 Georgians whose needs are not being met while they wait (some for decades) for services they are qualified to receive. Recognizing that this year after year approach is not successful in addressing the ongoing waiver wait lists, we ask you to join us to explore a new strategy that will better address the needs of people with developmental disabilities in Georgia.

What are NOW/COMP Waviers?

The NOW/COMP waivers provide services and supports to individuals with disabilities so that they can transition to, or remain in, the community instead of living in a more restrictive setting like a nursing facility or intermediate care facility. These services and supports are individualized and complement the services available to participants through the Medicaid state plan and other federal, state, and local public programs.