



Briefing Document

Public Notice: Department of Community Health, Medical Assistance Plans, 1915(c) Waiver Renewal: Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) Renewal

Effective Date: April 1, 2026; Pending final Board approval and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval

Cost Impact:

Waiver Year	Estimated State Share	Estimated Federal Share	Estimated Total Expenditure
Year 1	\$386,336,571	\$763,474,652	\$1,149,811,223
Year 2	\$402,307,470	\$795,036,191	\$1,197,343,661
Year 3	\$418,997,144	\$828,018,166	\$1,247,015,310
Year 4	\$436,402,806	\$862,415,068	\$1,298,817,874
Year 5	\$454,555,170	\$898,287,597	\$1,352,842,767
Total	\$2,098,599,161	\$4,147,231,674	\$6,245,830,837

Requested Action: Initial Adoption

Background:

Pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Community Health (DCH) proposes to renew the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) for an additional five years, which is currently scheduled to expire on March 31, 2026.

The COMP waiver is a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver operated by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) under the authority of Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. Federal Rules require that Section 1915(c) Waivers be reauthorized by CMS at least every five (5) years. The COMP Waiver must be reauthorized by April 1, 2026.



The COMP waiver serves individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) who require intensive and comprehensive support to live safely in the community. These individuals would otherwise require institutional care in settings such as Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IDDs), nursing facilities, or state hospitals. It supports individuals transitioning from institutional settings and at risk of institutionalization by providing alternatives that promote independent, community-based living.

In addition, the COMP waiver covers an array of services and supports, including residential care, in-home support, skilled nursing, behavioral services, and other community integration services. It also funds goods and services that the Medicaid State Plan does not cover, or when the individual's needs exceed State Plan limits.

By providing individualized, flexible services in community settings, the COMP waiver plays a critical role in advancing Georgia's efforts to support people with I/DD in living full, self-directed lives in the least restrictive environment.

As part of the renewal, the Department proposes making the following changes:

- Defined limits for several services (Community Living Support - Basic; Community Living Support - Extended; Prevocational Services; Intensive Support Coordination; Support Coordination; Financial Support Services; and Community Residential Alternative) as units rather than both units and dollars. There is no proposed reduction or change to service provisions, eligibility, or service amounts/limits due to this simplification.
- The consolidation of service definitions for Additional Staffing (AS)-Basic and AS-Enhanced to become one AS service definition with two rates (AS-Basic rate and AS-Enhanced rate). There is no proposed reduction or change to service provisions, eligibility, or service amounts/limits due to this simplification.
- Updated utilization and spending estimate to cover the five-year waiver period between April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2031.

The proposed revisions will not require a change to current policy or practice.

Recommendation:

Initial adoption of the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) renewal effective April 1, 2026.