

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTS WAIVER PROGRAM (COMP) RENEWAL

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.

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

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 because of the 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 because of the 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.

Locations to Access Copies of Public Notice and Waiver Renewal

This public notice and the waiver renewal application are available on the Department's website, at <https://dch.georgia.gov/meetings-notices/public-notices>. This public notice and the waiver renewal application are also available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. A comprehensive statewide list of locations of all Division of Family and Children Services offices can be found at <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/locations>.

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **September 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days before the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87553444753?pwd=vPoTa5Wz9aV5mbjVkcF0oNNuImBzXL.1>

Meeting ID: 875 5344 4753

Passcode: 927399

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,87553444753#,,,927399# US

+13017158592,,87553444753#,,,927399# US (Washington DC)

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **October 3, 2025**, to Danisha Williams, c/o the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov, or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to openrecordsrequest@dch.ga.gov. *Please note that any comments submitted are subject to open records.*

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **October 9, 2025**, at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 28th DAY OF AUGUST 2025
Dean Burke, MD, Commissioner