

AAA and SUA Collaboration to Improve Outcomes for Older Adults



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Division of Aging Services



MaryLea Boatwright Quinn

Georgia Division of Aging Services, Assistant Deputy Commissioner

Melissa Armstrong

Legacy Link Area Agency on Aging, CEO

Becky Kurtz

Atlanta Regional Commission, AAA Director

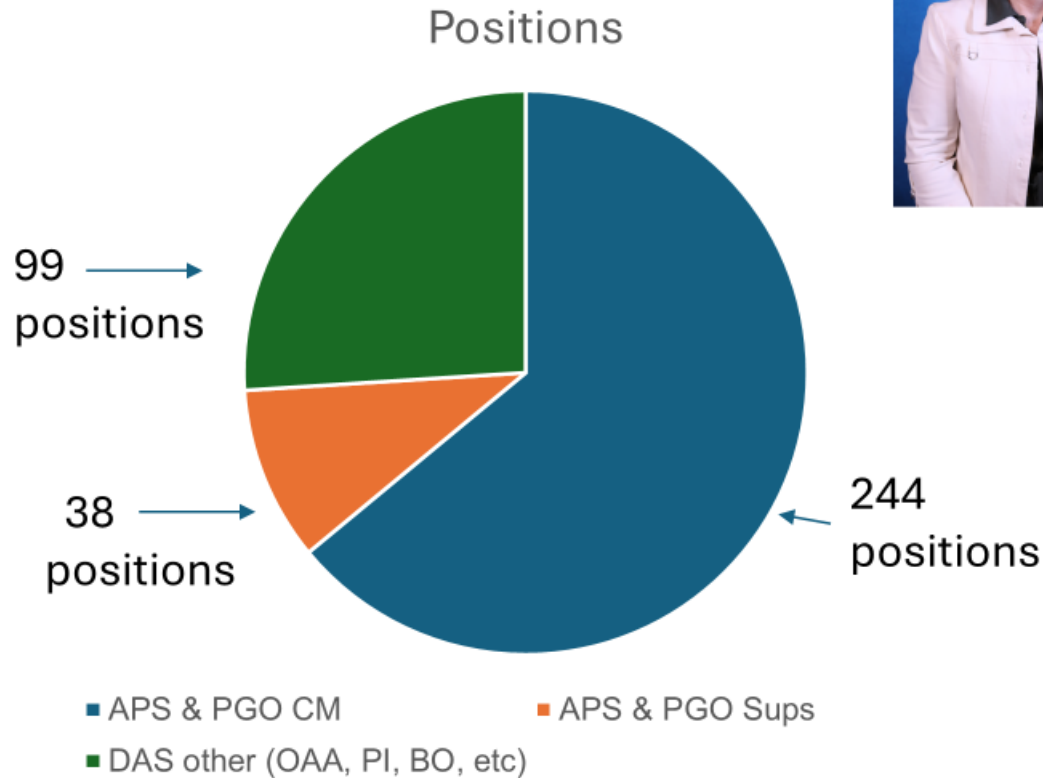
As we begin,
let's see
who's here:



MaryLea Boatwright Quinn



- SUA Director since March 2022
- MSW, LCSW
- HCBS, hospice, home care
- 15 years direct services
- 10 years policy & lobbying

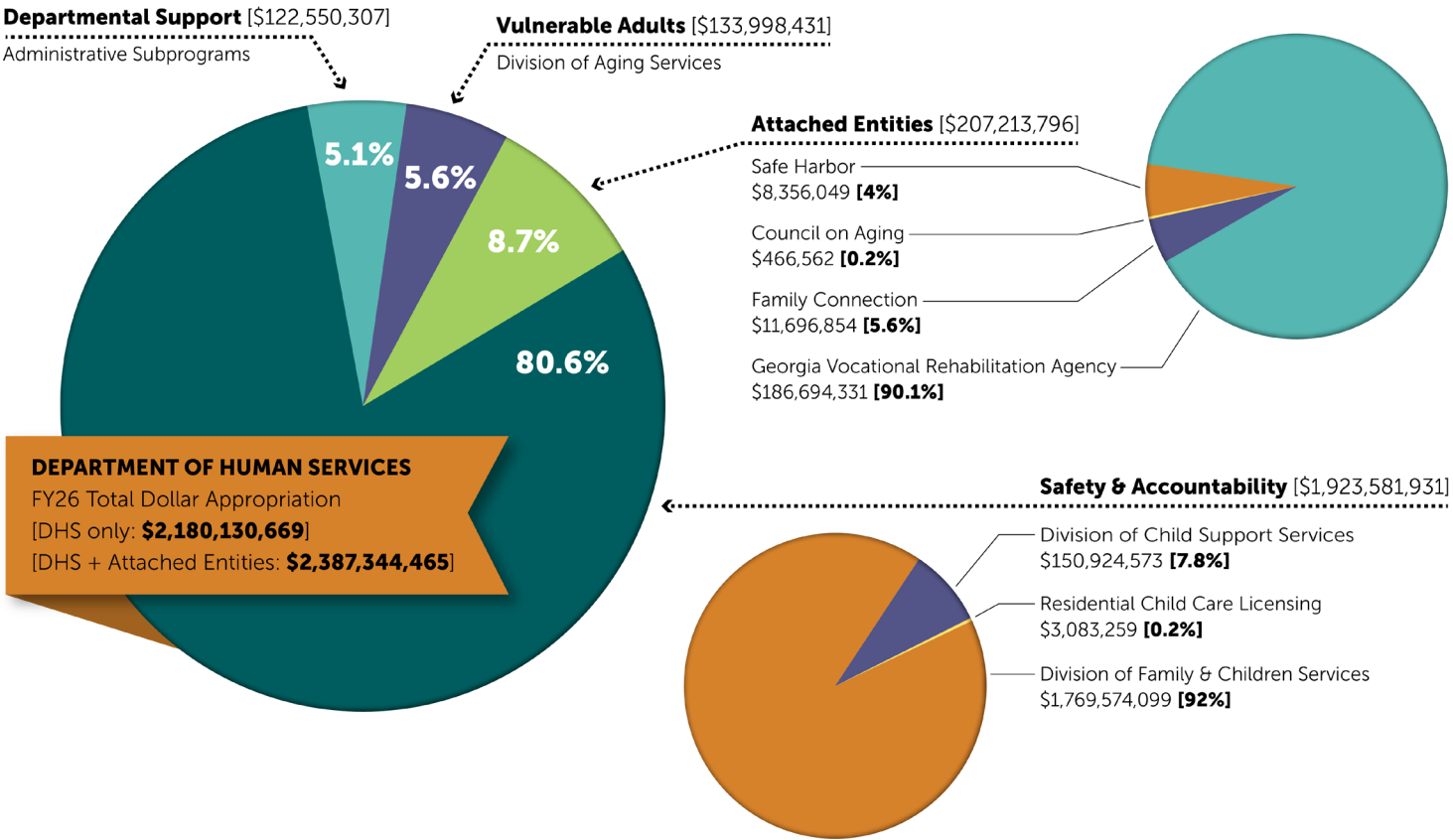


Division of Aging Services:
400 staff (72 % Elder Justice)
APS, Public Guardianship, FSIU



Division of Aging Services

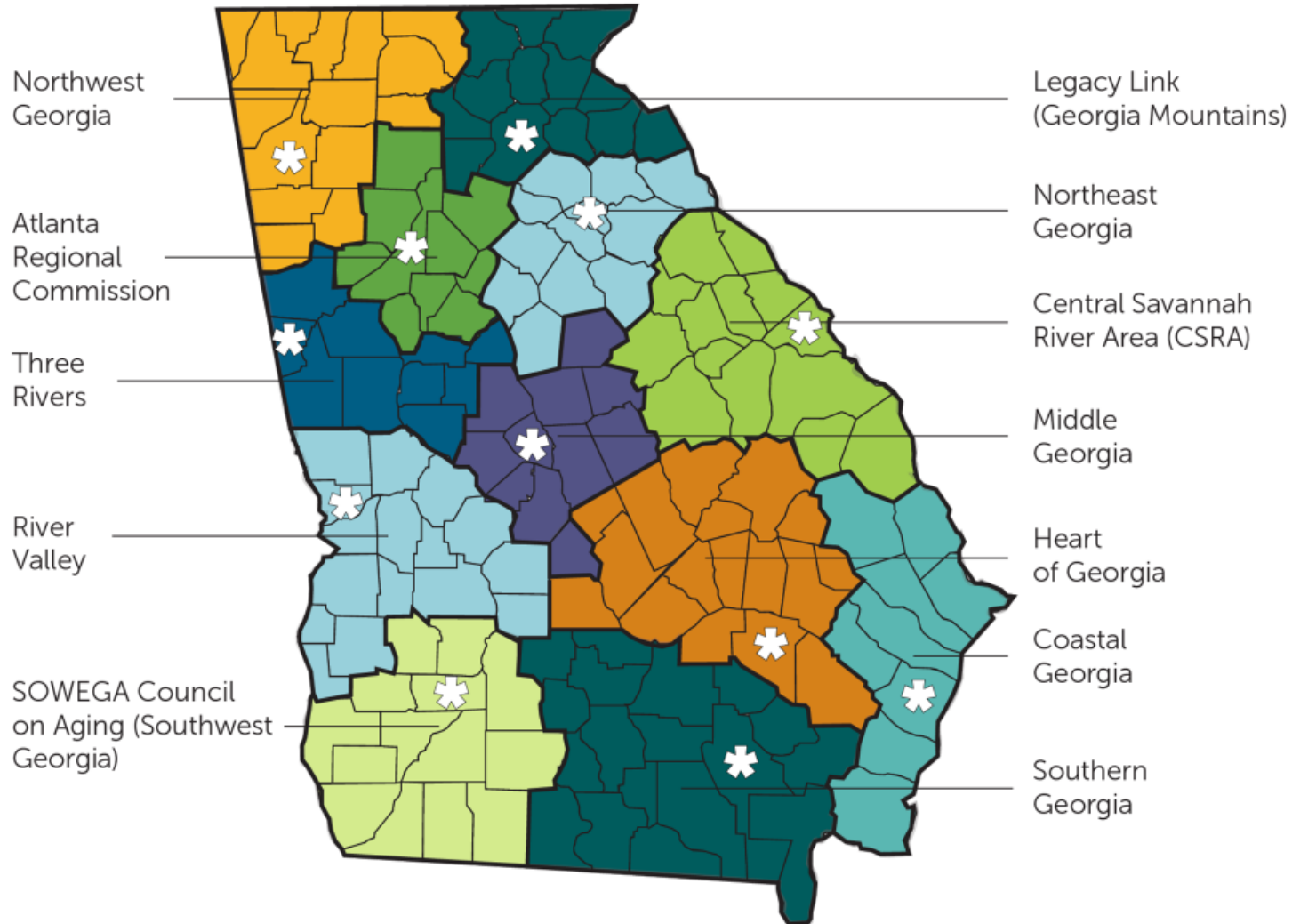
Budget Allocations | State Fiscal Year 2026



Mission & Vision



Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)



Legacy Link's CEO/AAA Director

- Serving in this role January 1, 2021
- Social worker
- Workforce development background
- Reports to Board of Directors





Legacy Link's Mission

Our mission is to support and advocate for aging adults and individuals with disabilities to be their link to a better life.

Legacy Link

Legacy Link is a nonprofit organization that connects older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers to the assistance they deserve.

Legacy Link provides programs to supplement community resources and boosts awareness of existing initiatives.

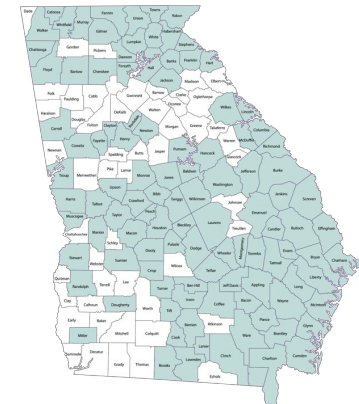
Legacy Link service area varies based on programs or service. Most services are offered in our primary 13 county region.



AAA



CCSP and SOURCE



SCSEP

Full Region Impact Report

FISCAL YEAR 2025

33,385

Clients Served Overall

376,895

Home Delivered Meals Provided

15,425

Wellness Activities Offered

710

Medicare
Beneficiaries
Counseled

17,218

Volunteer Hours
Served

649

SCSEP
Participants

6,604

Calls into
the ADRC

844

Clients Served
through Senior
Farmers Markets

2,557

Clients Served
through EDWP

107

Counties Served
Across Georgia

Service Area

Diverse region including suburban, regional-center, rural, and mountain communities.

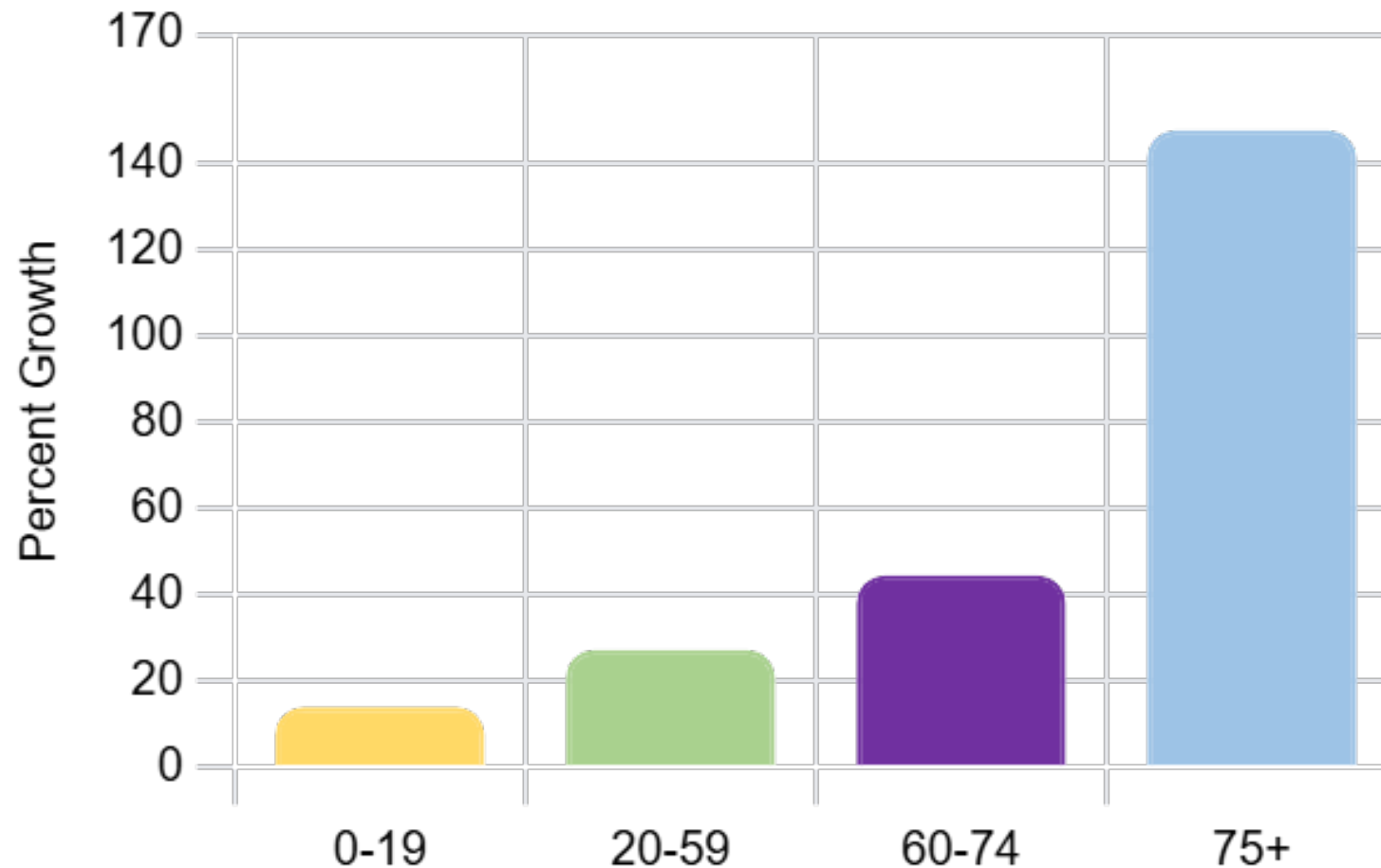
Population Trends:

- Mix of rapidly growing counties (Forsyth, Hall, Dawson) and smaller rural mountain counties.
 - supporting some of the state's fastest-growing communities—Dawson (+25.9%), Forsyth (+11.5%), and Hall (+9.3%) since 2020.
- Serves three of Georgia's 10 oldest counties by age concentration, including Towns (#1) and Union (#2), where median ages exceed 55 years.



Regional Growth Through 2050

Legacy Link 13-County Region Population Growth by Age Group (2025–2050)





Aging & Independence Services Department Atlanta Regional Commission



Vision

ONE **great** REGION

Mission

Foster thriving communities for all within the Atlanta region through collaborative, data-informed planning and investments.

Values

Excellence | **Integrity** | **Equity**

Goals



Healthy, safe, livable communities in the Atlanta Metro area.



Strategic investments in people, infrastructure, mobility, and preserving natural resources.



Regional services delivered with **operational excellence** and **efficiency**.



Diverse stakeholders engage and take a regional approach to solve local issues.



A competitive economy that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient.

Metro Atlanta's Area Agency on Aging Director

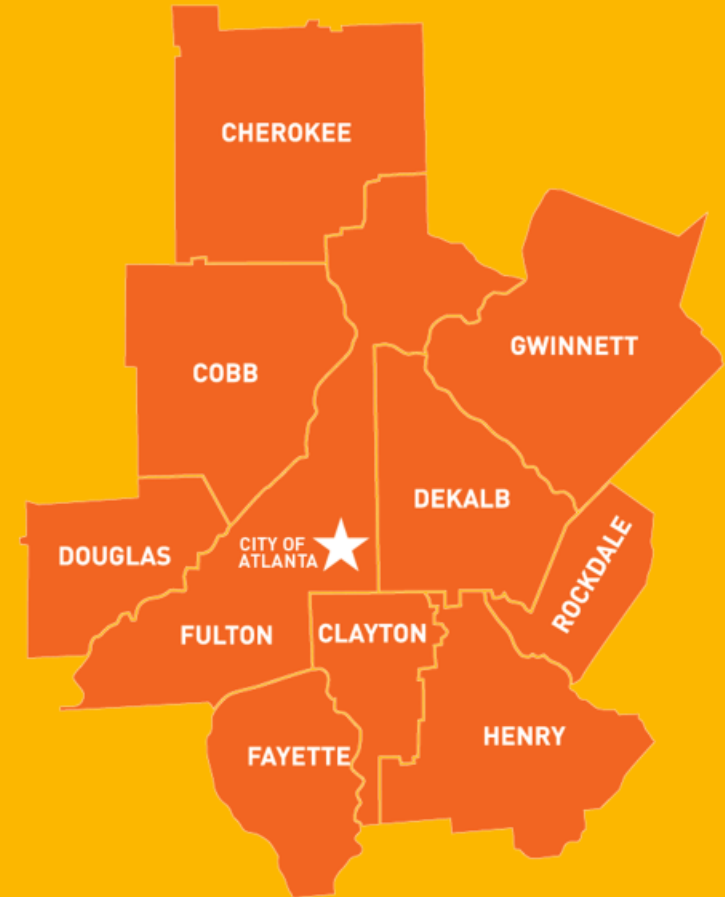
- Senior Managing Director, Aging & Independence Services Department
- Reports to Chief Operating Officer
- Serving in this role since April 2017
- Background in federal and state administration (Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program) and legal representation



Metro Atlanta's Planning and Service Area

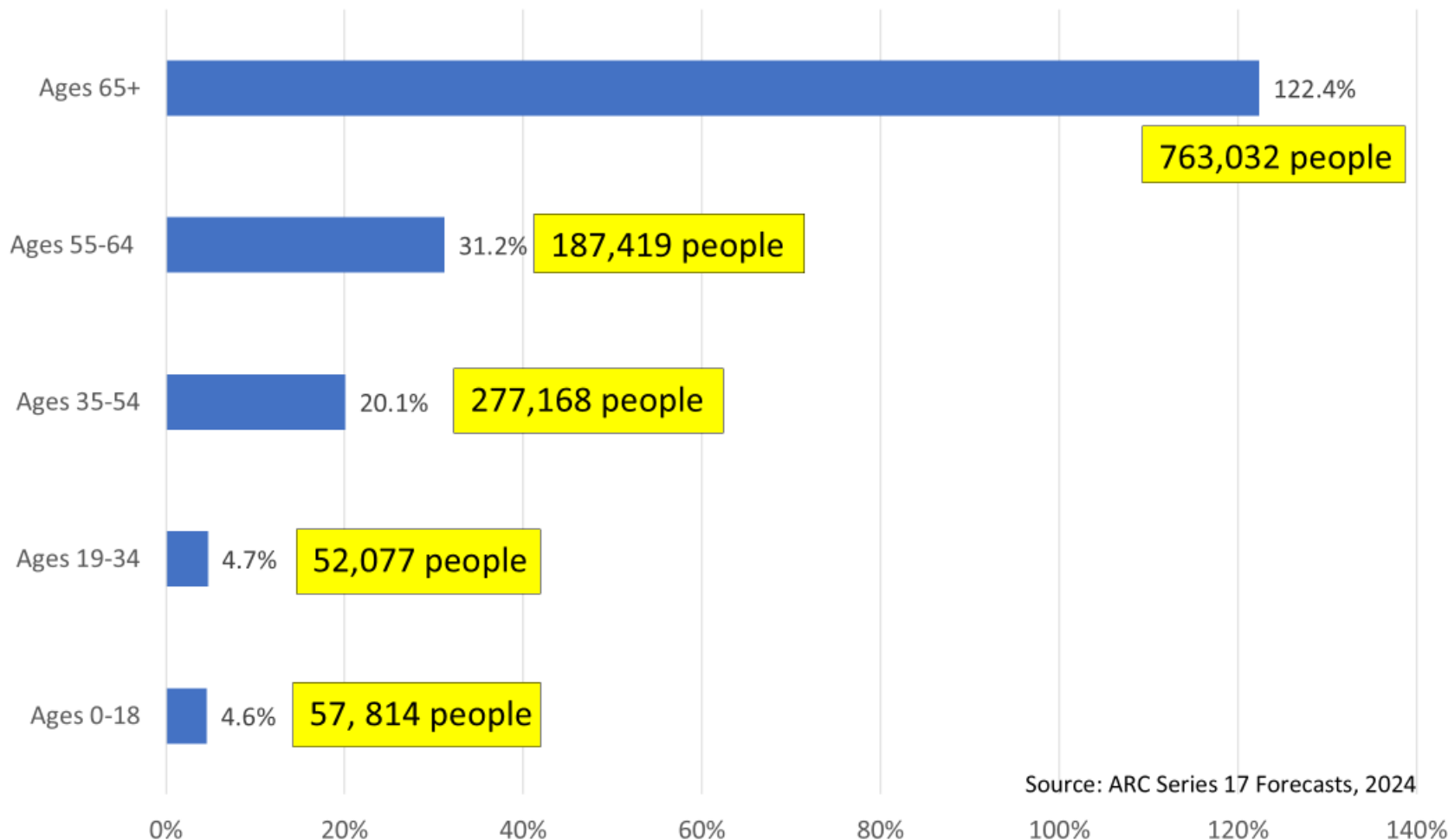
- City of Atlanta and surrounding 10 counties
- Primarily urban and suburban
- Population over 60: 958,938 and growing fast . . .

Population estimate, US Census 2024 Projections



Looking Forward: Regional Growth to 2050

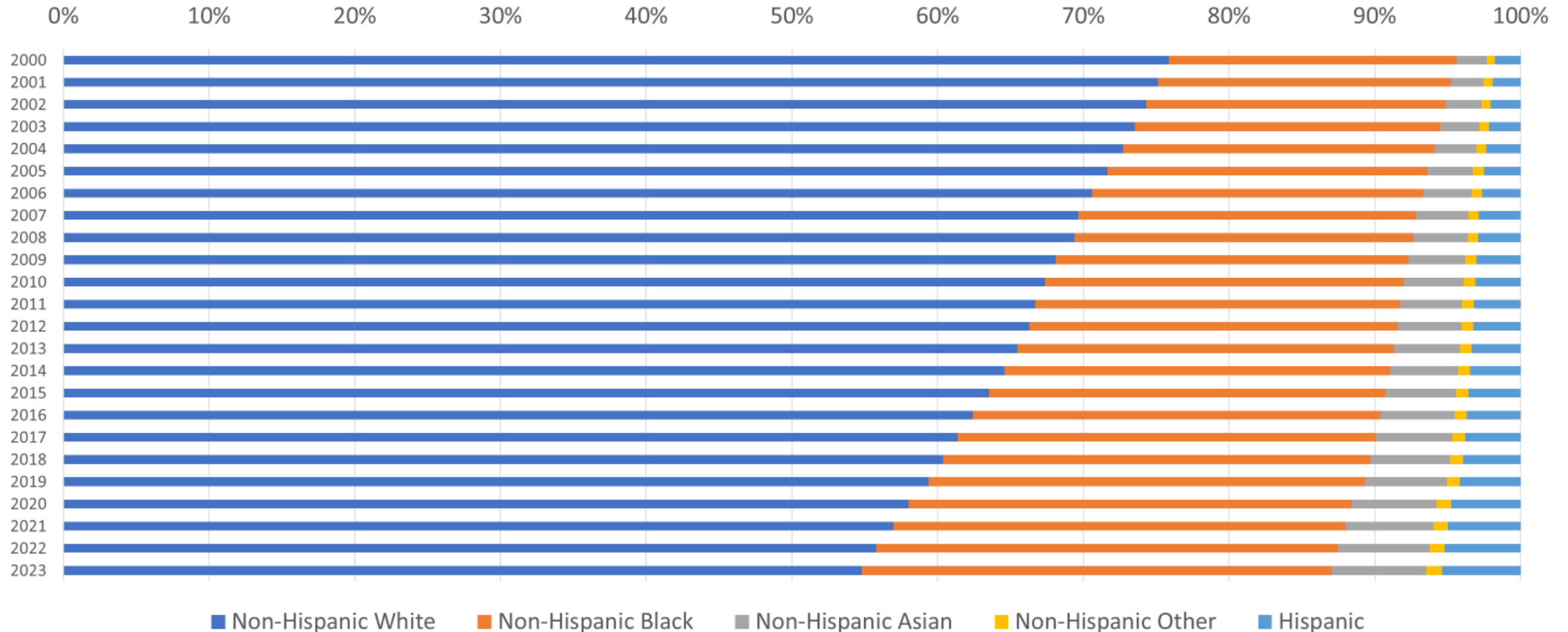
Forecast Increases 2020-2050 by Age Group, 11-County ARC Region



Source: ARC Series 17 Forecasts, 2024

Atlanta Region Older Population and Growing Diversity: Last Two Decades

Percent of People 65 or Older by Race and the Ethnicity, 11-County ARC Region



Advisory Committee on Aging



Provide services directly

Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)

-  Material Aid (e.g., utility assistance, grocery boxes)
-  Assistive technology

BRI* Care Consultation (for caregivers)

Nursing Home Transition

Behavioral health coaching (in affordable housing)

Veteran's Directed Care

*BRI = Benjamin Rose Institute



Volunteer Management

- Telephone reassurance (One2One)

Wellness

- Evidence-based wellness education classes
- Senior farmers' markets coordination





HENRY COUNTY
GOVERNMENT



Services Provided through ARC Grants

- Case management
- Culturally Appropriate Information/Referral
- Homemaker
- Personal care
- Caregiver Services
- Home Delivered Meals
- Congregate meals
- Support options (consumer-direction)
- Evidence-based wellness education classes
- Senior Recreation
- Transportation
- Kinship Services
- Material Aid
- Assistive Technology
- Home Repair and Modification
- Elderly Legal Assistance Program

How is your
AAA/SUA
relationship:



Shared Mission & Why



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Mission & Vision





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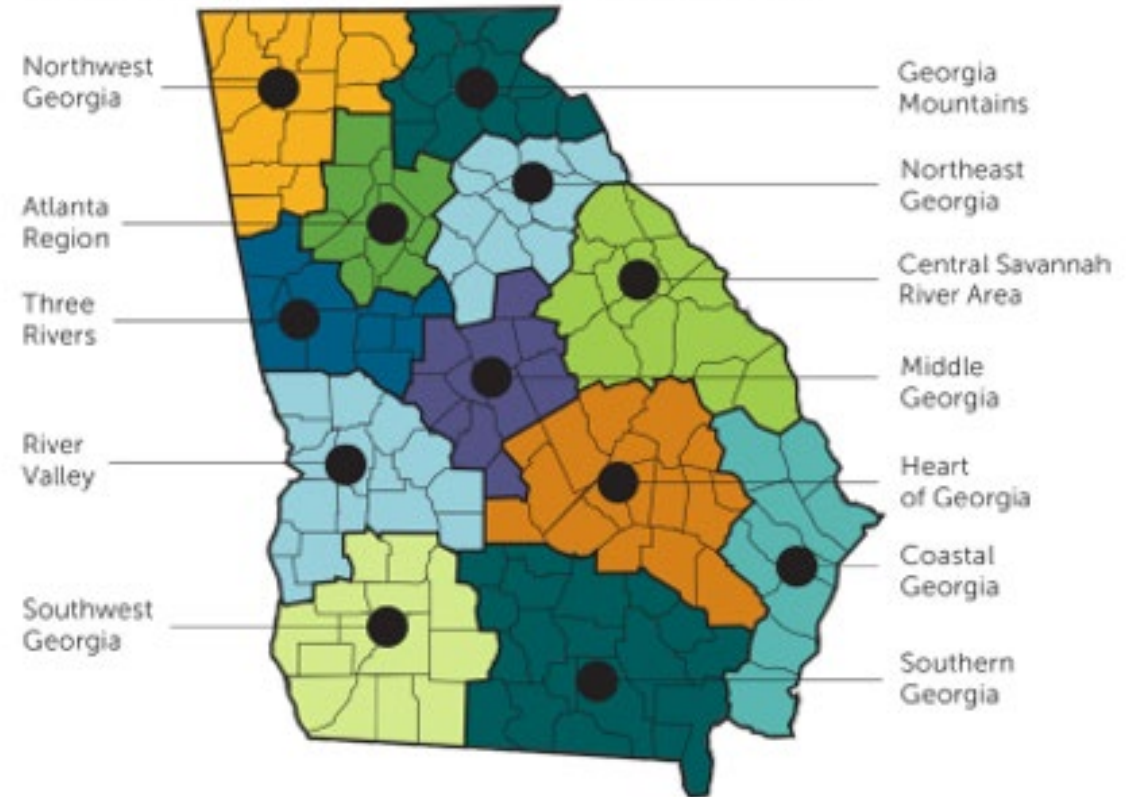
Diverse stakeholders engage and take a regional approach to solve local issues.



A competitive economy that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient.

Georgia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (G4A)

Planning and Service Areas





G4A

- What is G4A?
- Different organizational structures
- 501c3
- Cadence of meetings
- Importance of collaboration
- Trust



Communication is key

Communication:

- Leadership level
- Programmatic level
- Fiscal, operational level

Communication Types:

- Mid week update (Newsletter style) on Wednesdays
- Weekly virtual meetings on Thursdays at 2pm
- Program staff office hours



Communication is key

Leadership Level

Meetings

- Bi-monthly in-person meetings 9am-noon (center of state)
- Monthly Dialogue with the Director (DWD) meetings
- Weekly in emerging situations (weather, gov'n't shutdown)
- Quarterly Regional Commission Aging Committee meetings
- Ad hoc Director visits to AAAs for events, tours, etc.

Email communication

- Memo from director for significant info or policy waiver
- G4A submits questions ahead of monthly DWD meetings
- Share association updates/key information with each other



AAA/DAS Meetings



Sample agenda items:

- Program & policy updates
- Potential community partners
- Collaborative state partners
(Dept. of Community Affairs,
Dept. of Public Health)
- Important deadlines
- State plan on aging development
- Final Rule Compliance
- Tech enhancement updates



Other opportunities



Aging Advisory Council Meetings
Regional Commission events
Annual RC & SE4A conferences
AAA staff/provider visits



Older Americans Act Final Rule Implementation



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Final Rule Implementation

- Collaboration & feedback loops encouraged
- Director offered presentations on Final Rule
- Utilized AAA/DAS meetings as main forum for review and discussion
- Circulated draft policies for review & feedback
- Multiple surveys to AAA directors re: COI and Commercial contracts
- Full year post SUA for AAAs to come into compliance



State Plan & Area Plan Implementation



**Georgia Department
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Get Involved and Support Georgia's Aging Community!

Help shape Georgia's State Plan on Aging

We want to hear from older adults, caregivers, service providers, and community members across the state.

FILL OUT OUR SURVEY
HERE! →



STATE PLAN ON AGING

Atlanta Regional Commission - SPoA Community Conversation

June 23, 2026



Facing Challenges together



- Government Shutdown
- Legislative vetoes
- Delays in contracts
- Payment delays
- DPH farmers market
- DHS Coordinated transportation
- Advocacy partnerships



Questions and Discussion



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