



## GAHSA – GADCA Public Policy Brief

### Funding for Licensure of Adult Day Services

#### Why This Legislation is Important:

In 2003, the Georgia General Assembly passed HB 318 that requires the Department of Human Resources to promulgate, implement, and enforce Adult Day Center licensing requirements. However, the bill has not yet been funded, and an appropriation is necessary to develop rules and regulations, hire personnel, etc. for implementation and ongoing enforcement.

Adult day centers are community-based group programs designed to meet the needs of functionally and/or cognitively impaired adults through an individual plan of care. These structured, comprehensive programs provide a variety of support services in a protective setting during any part of a day, but less than 24-hour care. Most serve participants who cannot afford to pay for in-home services.

There are 131 known adult day centers in Georgia. They must be licensed to protect at-risk adults, including the elderly, because:

- Adult day centers are serving more participants who have cognitive impairments requiring nursing services, and/or assistance with two or more activities of daily living, such as eating, bathing dressing toileting or transferring;
- The state has a role in protecting the increasing number of participants, especially those who may be receiving substandard care in centers not currently licensed and regulated; and
- Implementing HB 318 will allow informal caregivers to work during the day with the assurance that the adult day center is a safe environment providing activities and services for participants until the caregiver is able to take his or her loved one home at the end of the day.

#### What Other States Are Doing:

Thirty-nine states -- including Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee -- regulate adult day centers through licensure (25) and/or certification (14). Alabama grants approvals, and Mississippi has quality assurance standards. **Georgia is the only southeastern state that does not regulate adult day centers.**

**What This Budget Item Would Do:**

- An appropriation of \$400,000 to the Department of Human Resources would ensure that adult day centers meet basic requirements, such as safety, proper nutrition, staff training and competency;
- Assist in identifying and regulating substandard adult day centers which are currently operating but are not known to authorities within the aging services network;
- Allow Georgia to protect its vulnerable adults by implementing the adult day care licensing law.

*This information was developed by the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE) of which GAHSA and GADCA are active participants.*

The Georgia Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (GAHSA) represents over 135 non-profit and other quality-focused providers of services and facilities for older Georgians. These providers serve over 124,500 older Georgians ([www.gahsa.org](http://www.gahsa.org)).

The Adult Day Services providers of GAHSA make up the Georgia Adult Day Care Association (GADCA) and serve older Georgians throughout the state.