



# Federal Funding

Understanding the Status of  
Federal Workforce Resources

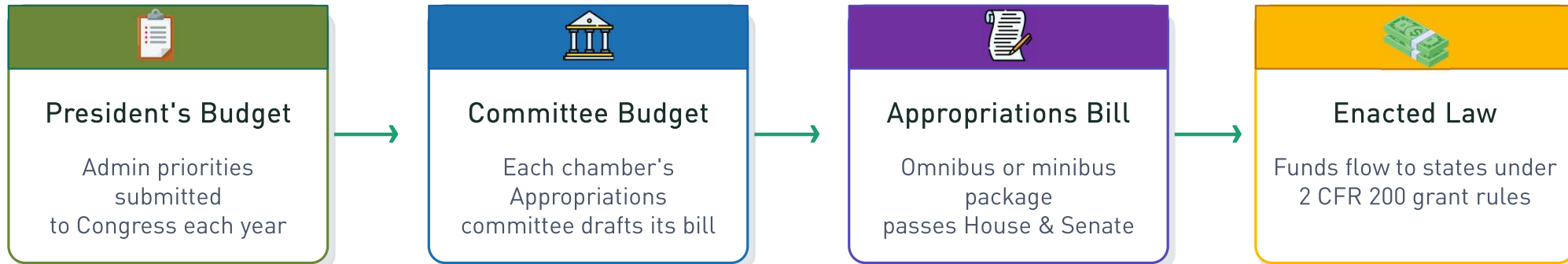
A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent rectangles in various colors (red, orange, blue, green, purple) arranged in a scattered pattern across the middle of the slide.

ONE  
**great**  
REGION

# THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

## How does federal funding work?

Federal workforce funds travel through a three-stage appropriations process before reaching local workforce boards.



### Key rule: 2 CFR 200

The Uniform Administrative Grant Guidance governs how all federal grant funds must be managed, reported, and audited once they reach state and local entities. Understanding this framework is essential for any organization receiving federal workforce dollars.

### When Congress misses a deadline

A Continuing Resolution (CR) keeps agencies funded at prior-year levels — directly impacting local boards' ability to plan programs.

# WIOA FORMULA FUNDING

## Adult & Youth Allocation Formula

Funds are distributed to states using three equally-weighted factors. Each factor measures economic hardship differently.

### THE 33 - 33 - 33 FORMULA

**33%** Area of Substantial Unemployment

Threshold:  $\geq 6.5\%$

State areas where unemployment exceeds 6.5% receive a proportional share of this factor based on the number of areas meeting the criteria.

**33%** Excess Unemployment

Above 4.5% statewide

Measured as unemployment above the 4.5% baseline — states with lower rates receive less.

**33%** Disadvantaged Individuals

Poverty / LLSIL data

Based on the number of people living in poverty or below the Lower Living Standard Income Level.

#### Why this matters for Georgia:

As Georgia's unemployment rate has fallen below key thresholds, its share of the first two formula factors has shrunk — a primary driver of Georgia's 23% allocation decline since 2021.

# WIOA FORMULA FUNDING

## Dislocated Worker Allocation Formula

The DW formula also uses three equal factors — but focuses on job loss and long-term unemployment rather than poverty.

### THE 33 - 33 - 33 FORMULA

**33%** Total  
Unemployment

All unemployed persons

The state's overall count of unemployed workers determines its proportional share of this factor.

**33%** Excess  
Unemployment

Above 4.5% statewide

Measured as unemployment above the 4.5% baseline — states with lower rates receive less.

**33%** Long-Term  
Unemployed

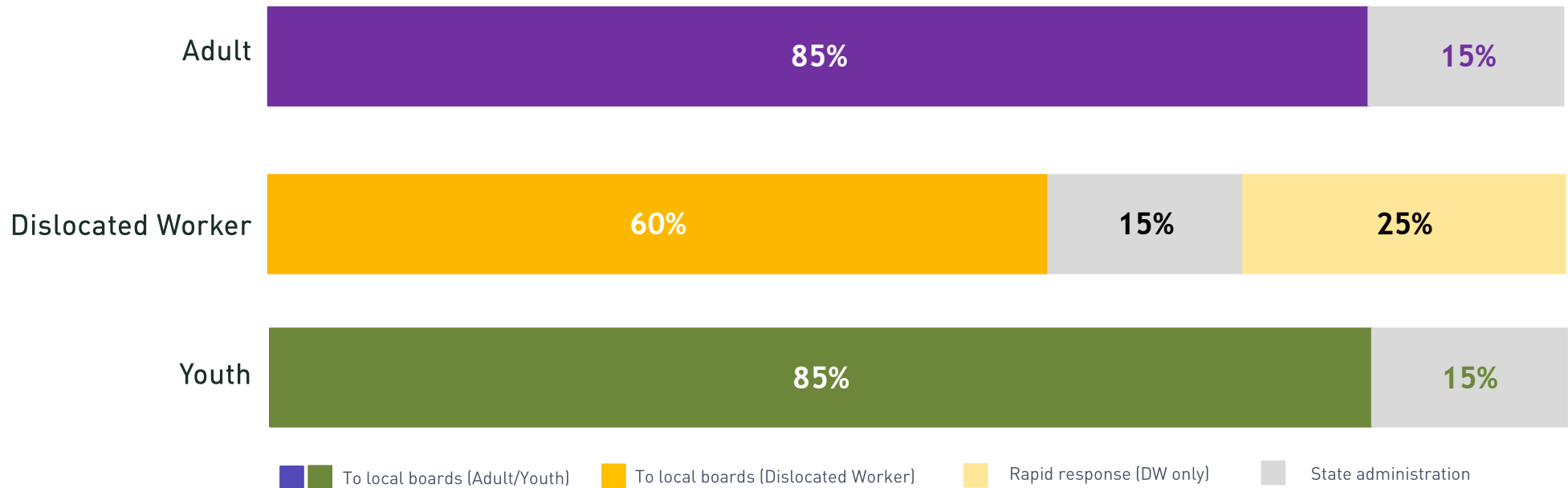
Unemployed 15+ weeks

Workers who have been unemployed for 15 or more consecutive weeks — a direct measure of structural job loss.

# STATE DISTRIBUTION

## How funds flow from state to local boards

Once Georgia receives its federal allocation, WIOA law mandates how it must be distributed to LWDA's.



### Dislocated Worker is different:

Only 60% of DW funds reach local boards. 25% is reserved for Rapid Response (mass layoffs/plant closures) and 15% for state admin — meaning local boards have significantly less DW funding to deploy than the state allocation suggests.

# SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

## An untapped source of workforce funding

Georgia has more SNAP E&T funding available than WIOA — yet local workforce boards are largely not accessing it.

### 100% FUNDS — no match required

**90%** State share based on count of SNAP work registrants

**10%** Driven by ABAWD\* count — determines Georgia's total annual USDA allocation

*\* ABAWD: Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents — a key population metric used to determine Georgia's annual SNAP E&T allocation from USDA.*

### 50/50 FUNDS — state reimburses your spend

1

#### You spend

Non-federal dollars on an eligible E&T activity

2

#### State reimburses

50% of your costs with SNAP E&T funds

3

#### You keep

Reimbursement as unrestricted funds — use for anything

### THE OPPORTUNITY

## More funding. Not enough takers.

- More available than Georgia is utilizing. Georgia's SNAP E&T expenditure is smaller than what's available — yet most of it goes unclaimed by the State.
- 50/50 = unrestricted cash back. Spend eligible dollars, get 50% back with no strings attached. That reimbursement can fund anything your organization needs.
- WIOA is declining. SNAP E&T is not. As WIOA allocations fall year over year, SNAP E&T offers a stable, accessible complement to your funding mix.

Is our system aligned to access SNAP E&T funds?

# FEDERAL TRENDS – APPROPRIATIONS STATUS

## Where things stand — and what's still uncertain

FY26 funding was secured — but the path to FY27 is unclear, and structural threats to WIOA have not gone away.

### FY25

Resolved

- Continuing Resolution passed for flat funding
- WIOA reauthorization, A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA), was included in the first bill, but did not advance despite having bi-partisan/bi-cameral support
- Boards operated under funding uncertainty for much of the year

### FY26

Enacted — Feb 2026

- Government shutdown occurred before final bill signed Feb 3
- WIOA Title I funded near FY25 levels — Adult slightly reduced, Youth and DW flat
- Administration's Make America Skilled Again (MASA) block grant proposal (-29%) rejected by Congress
- HHS funding extended through Sept 30, 2026

### FY27

Uncertain

- POTUS budget expected next month
- WIOA reauthorization remains stalled — but expect ASWA to be starting point for partisan bill
- Administration likely to re-propose deep cuts or consolidation via MASA
- Formula-driven declines in Georgia's share continue regardless of national totals

#### Looking ahead:

Flat funding is not the same as stable funding. With Georgia's formula share declining and no formula allocation change in sight, local boards must plan for continued real-dollar reductions year over year.

# WIOA REAUTHORIZATION – COMPETING VISIONS

## MASA vs. ASWA — what separates the two proposals

Two very different theories of how federal workforce investment should be structured, funded, and governed

|                      | MASA — Administration proposal                 | ASWA — H.R. 6655, House-passed                       |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Structure            | Single block grant — 11 programs consolidated  | Retains Adult, DW, Youth as separate formula streams |
| Total funding        | ~\$2.96B [-29% vs. current programs]           | ~FY23 levels + slight increase                       |
| Formula              | State block grant — allocation TBD by DOL      | Existing 33-33-33 formulas preserved                 |
| Eligibility targets  | Broad — population-specific set-asides removed | Youth OSY %, population targeting maintained         |
| Local board role     | Likely reduced — state discretion increases    | WDB authority preserved and strengthened             |
| Job Corps / Title II | Eliminated entirely                            | Reauthorized through FY2030                          |
| Apprenticeship       | 10% set-aside required                         | New H-1B fee-funded grants for DW training           |
|                      | Rejected by Congress in FY26 appropriations    | Passed House 378-26; Senate not acted                |

# WIOA REAUTHORIZATION – COMPETING VISIONS

## What each proposal means in practice

Structural details, governance changes, and what each path means specifically for Georgia and local workforce boards.

### Make America Skilled Again (MASA)

Trump Administration — FY26 Budget Proposal

Status: Rejected FY26 — expected to re-emerge in FY27 and 119th Congress

#### STRUCTURE & FUNDING

- **~29% funding cut.** Consolidates 11 programs into a ~\$2.96B block grant — down from \$4.6B+ across those programs today
- Eliminates Job Corps (\$1.8B) and Title II Adult Education (\$729M) separately
- 10% of grant funds must support registered apprenticeship activities

#### GOVERNANCE

- States gain wide discretion; federal population targeting requirements removed
- Grants missing first-year performance benchmarks can be terminated and reallocated

#### GEORGIA / LOCAL BOARD IMPACT

- Formula-driven allocation protections removed — states could deprioritize local boards
- Separate Adult, DW, Youth lines eliminated — structural basis for braided funding dismantled
- Block grant precedent historically leads to further funding declines over time

### A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA)

H.R. 6655 | Bipartisan

Status: Included in FY25 Appropriations Bill, but not in CR

#### STRUCTURE & FUNDING

- **Reauthorizes WIOA through FY2030** at slightly above FY23 levels — no structural funding cut
- Retains Adult, DW, and Youth as distinct formula streams — 33-33-33 formulas preserved
- Job Corps and Title II Adult Education fully reauthorized; YouthBuild and Re-Entry grants preserved

#### GOVERNANCE

- WDB authority preserved; but aligns LWDBs around economic regions
- 50% of Adult and DW funds directed to ITAs and work-based learning; employer-led emphasis

#### GEORGIA / LOCAL BOARD IMPACT

- Formula-share declines in Georgia continue — but mechanism stays predictable and plannable
- WDB authority intact – but may force consolidation
- New H-1B fee-funded formula grants for dislocated workers add an incremental funding stream

# FEDERAL TRENDS – FUNDING DATA 2021-2025

## Georgia is losing ground — and the gap is widening

National WIOA funding has held roughly flat (+3%) over five years. Georgia's share has fallen 23% — costing the state \$16M in allocation.

**+3%**  
National 5-yr change  
\$3.12B → \$3.21B

**-23%**  
Georgia 5-yr change  
\$70.9M → \$54.7M

**-16%**  
All GA locals  
\$51.9M → \$43.6M

**-14%**  
ARWDB (Atlanta)  
\$8.2M → \$7.0M

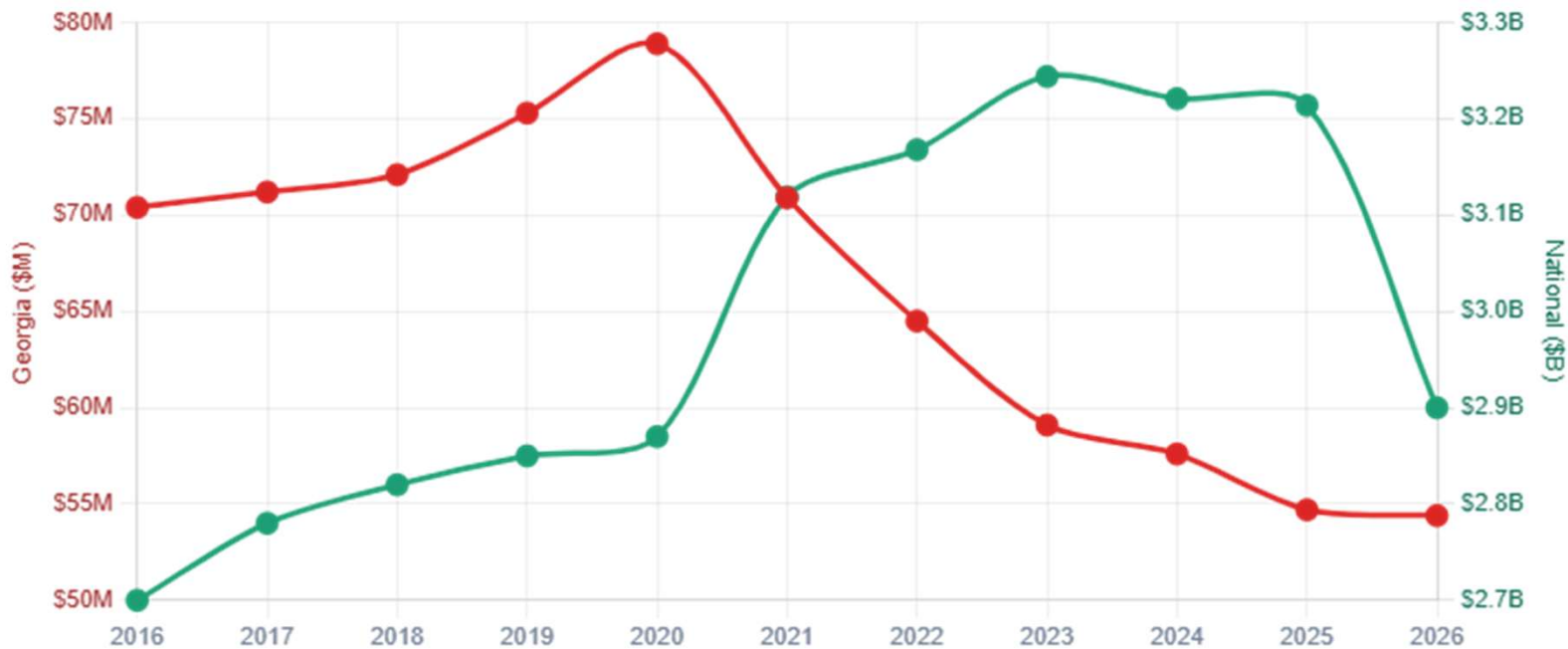
|                 | 2021    | 2022    | Chg   | 2023    | Chg   | 2024    | Chg   | 2025    | Chg   | 5yr  |
|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|------|
| National        | \$3.12B | \$3.17B | +1.6% | \$3.24B | +2.4% | \$3.22B | -0.7% | \$3.21B | -0.2% | +3%  |
| Georgia         | \$70.9M | \$64.5M | -9.0% | \$59.1M | -8.4% | \$57.6M | -2.5% | \$54.7M | -5.1% | -23% |
| All GA Locals   | \$51.9M | \$49.4M | -4.9% | \$48.8M | -1.1% | \$47.8M | -2.2% | \$43.6M | -8.6% | -16% |
| ARWDB (Atlanta) | \$8.2M  | \$7.9M  | -3.1% | \$7.5M  | -5.0% | \$7.6M  | +1.2% | \$7.0M  | -8.2% | -14% |

**Atlanta (ARWDB) spotlight:** The Atlanta Regional WDB has seen a 46% reduction since 2016. Even in FY24's slight uptick (+1.2%), the overall trend is downward, compressing local service capacity year over year.

# FEDERAL TRENDS – WIOA ALLOCATION 2016-2026

## National funding grew. Georgia's share collapsed.

Since 2016, national WIOA funding rose \$200M. Georgia's allocation fell \$16M over the same period — driven by formula factors, not funding cuts.



**-31%**

GA peak to 2026

**+7%**

National 2016-2026

Georgia's problem is structural:

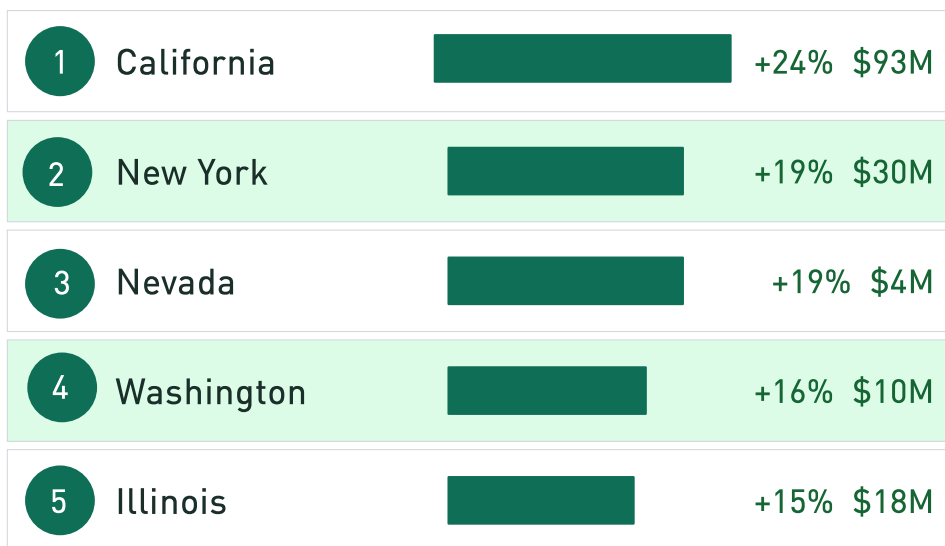
The formula factors — unemployment rates, poverty data — have moved against Georgia independent of how much Congress appropriates. Flat national funding does not stop the decline.

# FEDERAL TRENDS – BIGGEST GAINS & LOSSES 2021-2026

## Same budget, diverging outcomes — Georgia is losing.

WIOA formula factors produce winners and losers every year. Georgia has been in the losing column for five consecutive years.

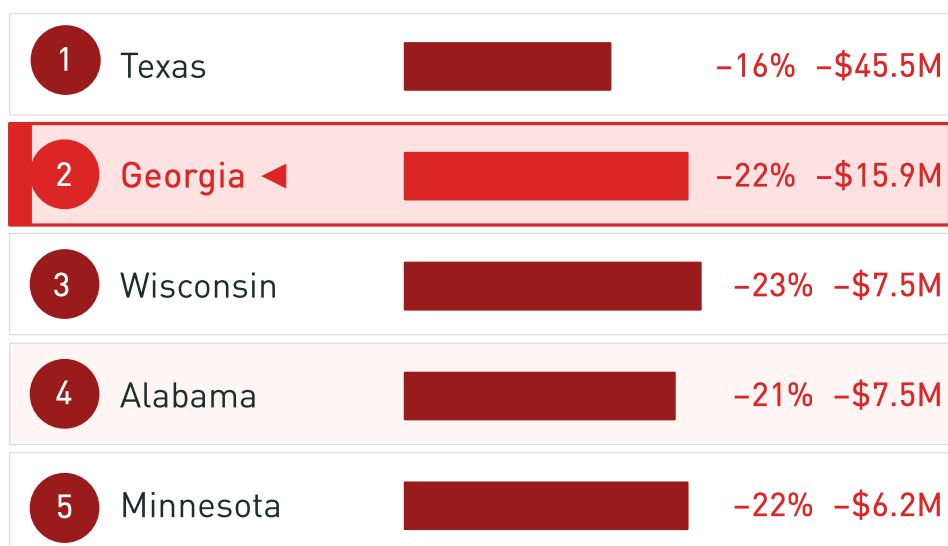
### BIGGEST GAINS 2021-2026



#### What's driving gains?

Higher poverty and elevated unemployment have moved these states' formula factors in their favor.

### BIGGEST LOSSES 2021-2026



#### Georgia's position:

Down 22% since 2021. Low unemployment and poverty metrics have reduced GA's WIOA formula factors.

# LOCAL BUDGETING

## How money moves from allocation to your program

Federal funds pass through multiple entities before reaching participants. Each handoff carries distinct legal requirements.



### Fiscal agent

OCGA 34-14-2 — city, county, or regional commission

- Legal custodian of WIOA funds — not the workforce board
- Sets procurement rules: competitive bidding, sole-source justifications
- Cash flow model varies: some advance funds (accrual), most reimburse after spend

### Local Workforce Development Board

Statutory authority over program and service decisions

- Holds program authority even though fiscal agent holds the money
- Defines programs, participant characteristics & performance expectations
- Plans across Year 1 / Year 2 — track carryover to avoid lapsing funds
- Sets funding limits and operates within WIOA statutory program caps

### Accrual vs. reimbursement

A characteristic of how your fiscal agent operates

- Reimbursement (most common): provider spends first, invoices fiscal agent, state reimburses — cash flow gap of weeks to months
- Accrual: fiscal agent advances funds based on projections — better for smaller providers, requires strong fiscal controls
- Know your fiscal agent's model — it determines your cash reserve needs

### Budget units & invoice process

How funding is structured and drawn down

- Budget units organize funds by program (Adult, Youth, DW) and cost category
- Year 1 / Year 2 carryover: unspent funds must be obligated within the grant period

# BRAIDED FUNDING

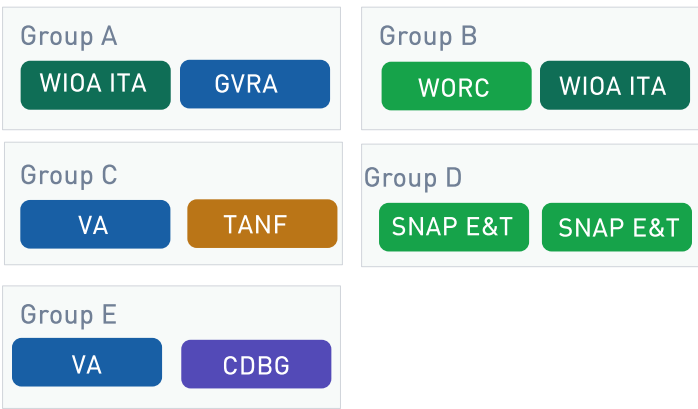
## Braided funding: layering streams around one participant

Each funding source pays for distinct eligible activities. No single cost is charged to more than one source. Together, they cover everything a participant needs.

ONE PARTICIPANT — FUNDING STREAMS



COHORT-BASED BRAIDING — ECONOMIES OF SCALE



**Result:** One trainer. One classroom. Five funding streams. Full class.

# BRAIDED FUNDING – LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

## Braiding as a strategic response to declining WIOA

As WIOA allocations fall, organizations that braid funding maintain service capacity. Those that don't are forced to reduce programs or participants.

### 1 Maintain service capacity

As WIOA declines, SNAP E&T, Discretionary Grants, local funds, and philanthropy, and other streams fill the gap — keeping participant volume stable even as individual allocations shrink.

### 2 Diversify funding risk

An organization reliant on a single source is exposed when that source is cut or delayed. A braided portfolio spreads risk across multiple federal, state, and local streams.

### 3 Unlock untapped streams

SNAP E&T, CDBG, VA education funds, and TANF work supports are available to workforce providers — yet most local areas leave significant dollars unclaimed each year.

#### Board oversight:

Set strategy, approve allocation methodology, ensure provider admin capacity, identify new revenue sources

#### Partnership development:

MOUs with DFCS, TANF admins, GVRA, VA — board-level relationships

#### Performance alignment:

Each funder has metrics — braided programs must satisfy all simultaneously

# CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

Georgia's workforce system has the tools to meet this moment.  
The opportunity is knowing how to use them.

## THREE THINGS TO TAKE WITH YOU

- 1 Understand the real trajectory**  
Georgia's decline is formula-driven — it continues regardless of national totals. The organizations that plan around the real trend will be better positioned than those waiting for stability.
- 2 The money exists — it's just unclaimed**  
Georgia's SNAP E&T allocation exceeds available, unallocated WIOA funds. Braided funding can stretch every dollar further. These aren't future strategies — they're available in the current program year.
- 3 Your role matters at every level**  
Boards set strategy, staff track compliance, providers braid funding. When every link in the chain does its job well, more funding reaches more participants. The region thrives.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- On funding exposure**  
Where is your organization most exposed if WIOA continues to decline? What would another 10% reduction mean for your programs?
- On SNAP E&T**  
What would it take for your board or organization to access SNAP E&T funds in the next program year? What's the first step?
- On braiding**  
Which funding streams are participants in your programs already eligible for — but not currently being connected to?
- On your role**  
What is one thing you can change in how you manage your fiscal agent relationship or invoice process that would improve cash flow or reduce audit risk?