

2023 Progress Report



The People-Powered Prosperity Campaign (PPP) details a vision where all Georgians can prosper—and outlines options to responsibly fund the programs necessary to power economic growth in our state. The below scorecard outlines several PPP priorities that advanced through the legislature this year. 2023 was year one of a two-year legislative session in Georgia, and bills not passed or voted down can continue to move in 2024.

PPP is a multi-year campaign led by GBPI, [9to5 Georgia](#), [Faith in Public Life](#) and [Small Business Majority](#) that began in 2019 and ends in 2023. However, the work towards advancing a pro-active revenue agenda and policies that strengthen economic security for Georgians continues.

Major progress	A lot of progress	Some progress	No movement yet

Healthy Communities

	Expand Medicaid	Despite beneficial federal financial incentives offered under the Affordable Care Act and the American Rescue Plan , the state legislature failed to pass legislation that would fully expand Medicaid eligibility for adults with lower incomes. In July 2023, Governor Kemp launched Pathways to Coverage, which expands access to healthcare coverage to some low-income Georgians who meet monthly work, higher education, volunteer, or other reporting requirements.
	Extend postpartum Medicaid	Georgia received federal approval to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum in October 2022. The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 allows states like Georgia to make this postpartum coverage permanent (rather than a temporary option available for five-year increments as originally offered in ARPA).
	End five-year waiting period for lawful permanent residents to access Medicaid	HB 19 , the FY24 budget legislation, includes a line item that directs the Department of Community Health to amend the Medicaid state plan and remove the five-year waiting period for Medicaid-eligible pregnant women and children who are lawful permanent residents.
	Invest in mental health and substance abuse treatment	HB 520 , a bill that builds upon the momentum of last year's bipartisan passage of the Mental Health Parity Act , failed to pass. One bill provision related to cross-agency data-sharing was added to SB 23 , and other provisions are reflected in the budget language in HB 19 .

Strong Workforce

	Fund a broad-based, need-based financial aid program	HB 249 passed but was later vetoed by Gov. Kemp. This legislation would have lowered the minimum number of credit hours that must be completed for a student to receive a completion grant to help them finish their degree. It would have also raised the maximum award per eligible student from \$2,500 to \$3,500.
	Provide sustainable funding to meet needs of students participating in Dual Enrollment	Budget cuts were avoided, but no additional progress was made.
	Remove barriers to quality job training and supportive services for Georgians with low incomes	HB 334 , which would have expanded expungement in Georgia, was introduced but did not crossover. SB 157 , which would have expanded Georgia's expungement process and streamlined decision processes in occupational licensing boards so Georgians with criminal records could receive more consistent occupational licensing decisions, crossed over but failed to pass.

Educated Youth

	Protect existing funding to ensure inequities in school resources are not exacerbated	The FY 2024 budget appropriates \$13.1 billion for education, which fully funds the Quality Basic Education formula (QBE) for K-12 public education. Additionally, SB 233 , which would have funneled millions of additional public dollars intended for public schools to private schools in the form of vouchers, failed.
	Update Georgia's education funding formula to include an Opportunity Weight to support districts serving high numbers of students with low incomes	Several bills that would create an Opportunity Weight for K-12 students were filed, but no movement has been made on them yet.
	Fully fund and expand education funding grants including equalization, sparsity and transportation	No movement.

Thriving Families

	Increase the availability of child care subsidies to serve more students and low-income families	The FY 2024 budget does not include additional resources for Child Care Services above the Governor's initial proposal of \$1 million. However, the CAPS program was able to serve approximately 10,000 more children with federal relief funds, which will expire in fall 2024.
	Pass a state-level Earned Income Tax Credit, or Georgia Work Credit (GWC)	HB 79 and SB 118 , providing for a state earned income tax credit and child tax credit, were both filed but failed to advance.
	Strengthen safety net programs by extending eligibility, removing barriers to enrollment and addressing program rules that end benefits to families before they are on sound economic footing	The legislature passed HB 129 , which expands Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) access to pregnant women and eliminates the TANF family cap, which previously denied access to benefits for children born while another family member is receiving benefits.

Stable, Fair Tax System

	Evaluate and trim back tax breaks for profitable corporations that do not deliver on their promise	HB 413 , an incredibly risky tax bill, failed to pass. HB 413 would have established a program known nationwide as CAPCO but referred to locally as the Georgia Agribusiness and Rural Jobs Act (GARJA). Over the remainder of 2023, the state is also set to undertake a comprehensive review of existing tax credits and exemptions approved under last year's HB 1437 .
	Enact a corporate minimum tax	No movement yet.
	Increase the state's tobacco tax	Lawmakers introduced HB 191 , raising the tax on each pack of cigarettes from 37 cents to 57 cents, and HB 192 , raising the tax on cigarettes and vaping products, but neither passed. HR 43 , which would have established a joint study committee on the costs and effects of smoking, also failed to advance.
	Modernize the sales tax to cover some services as the economy changes	SB 56 extends state and local sales taxes to digital goods and services, beginning in January 2024. In its first year of implementation (FY 2025), state estimators project the legislation would raise approximately \$86 million in new revenues.