

# Low Nursing Rates Risk Children's Safety and Health

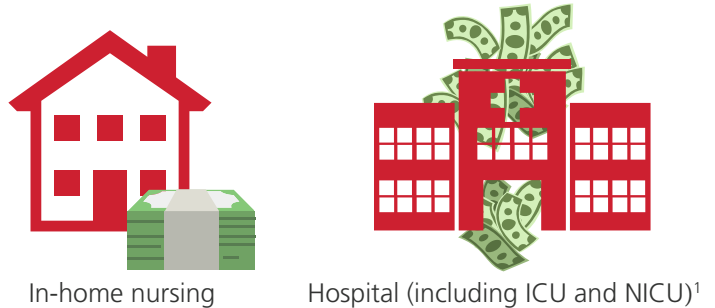
Georgia families rely on home care to receive the high-quality nursing care they need to keep their children at home and out of costlier institutional settings. Unfortunately, long-term underinvestment in the nursing Medicaid reimbursement rates are preventing providers from recruiting and retaining nurses, resulting in access-to-care issues and putting medically fragile children's health at risk.

## What is private duty nursing care under the Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP)?

- Housed under the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH).
- Eligible medically fragile children under 21 years of age.
- Physician-ordered medically necessary skilled nursing care in the home.
- As of June 2022, **1,767 children** were receiving in-home services through the GAPP program.
- GAPP is a state-plan service (not a waiver), and is a key service along the long-term services and supports (LTSS) continuum.

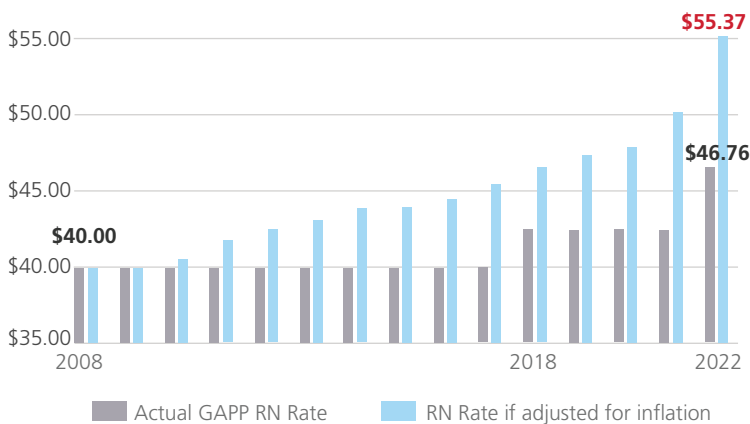
## Weekly Nursing Costs by Settings

In-home nursing is not only the patient-preferred settings, it also results in substantial cost savings to the state:



Support medically fragile children and their families by increasing the GAPP nursing reimbursement rates by

## Long-term underinvestment and accumulating inflation has eroded the value of GAPP reimbursement rates over time.<sup>2</sup>



The GAPP population is expected to grow significantly in the next decade, but providers are struggling now to meet the demand for care.<sup>3</sup>

47%

Projected increase by 2040 in individuals living with a neurological disorder

**Georgia's US rank** for availability of registered nurses relative to its population

49<sup>th</sup>

29%

The percentage of nurses considering leaving the nursing profession within the next year

For more information, contact:



1. <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/your-visit/billing-and-insurance/pay-my-bill/price-information-list>. 2. DCH GAPP Manuals 2008-2022, US Inflation Calculator. 3. Georgia Healthcare Workforce Commission Meeting One Presentation, August 29, 2022.