

FISCAL YEAR 2023 Annual Report





GEORGIA TRAUMA COMMISSION

> Dennis W. Ashley, MD, FACS Chairman

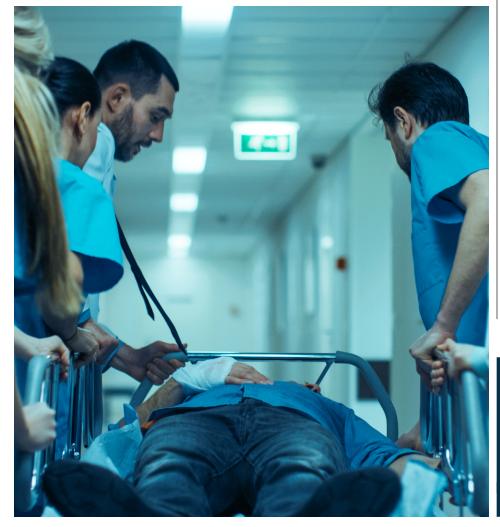
Elizabeth V. Atkins, MSN, RN, TCRN

Executive Director

248 W. Jefferson St. Madison, GA 30650 (706) 841-2800

Mission, Vision, and Values

In 2007, the Georgia Legislature, through Senate Bill 60, established the Georgia Trauma Commission.



Mission

The Georgia Trauma Commission is dedicated to improving the health of injured Georgians by ensuring access to quality trauma care, coordinating key trauma system components, and educating trauma care providers across the multidisciplinary continuum.

Vision

The Georgia trauma system will become a top-tier trauma system that provides the highest quality care and education through discovery and innovation.

Values

STEWARDSHIP

Manage resources responsibly and bring value to patients and taxpayers.

INTEGRITY

Demonstrated through accountability, ethical behavior, transparency, and reliability.

INCLUSIVITY

Ensure teamwork, collaboration, and inclusion of a diverse stakeholder group.

The Georgia Trauma Commission administers the statewide trauma care network and serves as the accountability mechanism for the entire trauma system, overseeing the flow of funds for system improvement.



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Commission Members

Letter From Our Executive Director



Our fiscal year 2023 began with robust initiatives to identify opportunities in our current trauma system infrastructure and processes. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF), five of Georgia's level IV trauma centers underwent on-site consultative visits to gain insights on optimizing trauma center operations, including performance improvement, patient safety, and best practices for trauma program development.

In January, we cast our net wider, enlisting help from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to conduct Georgia's second trauma systems consultation and the first-ever, nationally and for Georgia, rural-focused review. Over three full days, 100+ multidisciplinary stakeholders, from rural EMS providers to urban trauma center executive leaders, convened to discuss the challenges and barriers in our system.

Through the PTSF and ACS consultations, Georgia received valuable, comprehensive feedback and recommendations to improve our trauma system. We are poised to embark on a journey alongside our system stakeholders to elevate Georgia's statewide trauma system to its full potential.

The Georgia trauma system had its share of challenges this fiscal year as the closure of one of our five level I trauma centers made national headlines. This void in our system cast an unprecedented shadow of uncertainty across healthcare facilities throughout our state. The Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to fortifying the foundation of trauma care. As of May 2023, Commission funding supports every designated trauma and burn center in the state, contributing up to 7% of their total trauma readiness. More funding is critical to recruiting and retaining trauma care providers to support the future needs of our citizens and visitors to our state.

In the coming years, our mission is to ensure we have enough funding to bring about a transformational impact on our trauma centers, emergency medical service providers, and other vital trauma system components. We invite you to follow our progress on trauma.georgia.gov as we work to improve trauma care for citizens and visitors to our great state.

ELIZABETH V. ATKINS Executive Director



Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Allocations

Budget Overview

The annual budget of the Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC) is distributed by established funding formulas designed to sustain the critical infrastructure of the trauma system. This year, through establishing our trust fund, we successfully secured our entire budget allocation, which provides vital support to trauma centers, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), System Development, and Operations. We take great pride in showcasing the following accomplishments and improvements:

- Successful Completion of the American College of Surgeons
 Trauma Systems Consultation with Rural-Focused Review
- Increased Level III and IV Readiness Funding
- Provision of Equipment Grants for Georgia's 911 Emergency Response Vehicles
- Facilitation of EMS Education through the Georgia Emergency Medical Services Association (GEMSA) for more than 3,000 students statewide.

5%

6%

18%

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

\$22.9+ million budgeted and allocated through the Georgia Trauma Commission

71%

Trauma Centers EMS System Development Operations

TOTAL

\$16,285,452 \$4,109,730 \$1,372,913 \$1,175,454

\$22,943,548

07

Funding Allocations

Trauma Center Distribution

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\$16.3 million was dispersed across all levels of Georgia's trauma, pediatric trauma & burn centers. This funding injection underpins several critical aspects within the purview of trauma center operations, including trauma center readiness, registry management, and the provision of uncompensated care. Notable facets of the funding distribution encompass:

Performance Based Pay Program (PBP):

Within this framework, a portion of the trauma readiness funding is subject to a performance-based assessment. Performance metrics determine the percentage of potential funding at risk, thereby incentivizing trauma centers to achieve and maintain highperformance standards.

Uncompensated Care Funding (UCC):

This funding category is allocated to Level I and II trauma centers and burn centers. The allocation is based on individual centers' historical data, subjected to rigorous annual audits by an impartial third party. The disbursement of UCC funding is contingent upon the availability of resources and aims to address the financial challenges associated with providing care to patients who lack adequate compensation.

Readiness Funding Enhancements for Level III and IV Centers:

In a notable development, Level III trauma centers have received an increase in readiness funding, elevating it to \$75,000. Level IV trauma centers have also witnessed a noteworthy increment in readiness funding, with a new allocation of \$25,000. These enhancements signify a concerted effort to fortify the preparedness and capabilities of these lower-tier trauma centers.

Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Participation Reimbursement:

Participation fees for the American College of Surgeons Trauma Quality Improvement Program (ACS TQIP) were funded for all designated level III trauma centers. ACS TQIP aims to improve care for injured patients by setting standards that define the structures and processes of care, measure patient outcomes through risk-adjusted benchmarking, promoting best practices, and adhering to performance improvement principles.

The fiscal year 2023 funding allocation reflects a strategic investment in Georgia's trauma healthcare infrastructure. The multifaceted approach to funding distribution, encompassing performance incentives, uncompensated care considerations, and readiness enhancements, underscores a commitment to optimizing trauma healthcare delivery and patient outcomes across the state.

2023 Funding Impact





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FY 2023 Trauma Center Allocations

	FY 2023 Budget Allocations						Additional FY 2023 Budget Allocations*				ons*	Total FY 2023	
Contracted Trauma Centers	Readiness	Potential Performance Based Pay	Total Readiness Payments	UCC (CY 2020)	Total from Trauma Fund	Registry Sup	port 1	Total Base Funds	Additional Readiness	Performance Based Pay Reward/ Reduction	TQIP Participation Support	Total Additional Funds	Total Base + Additional
Level I													
Atrium Health Navicent Macon	\$ 114,094.00	\$ 456,376.00	\$ 570,470.00	\$ 733,320.00	\$ 1,303,790.00	\$ 75,451	.00 📢	\$ 1,379,241.00	\$ 219,681.00	\$ 2,387.00	-	\$ 222,068.00	\$ 1,601,309.00
Augusta University	\$ 114,094.00	\$ 456,376.00	\$ 570,470.00	\$ 536,274.00	\$ 1,106,744.00	\$ 75,451	.00 📢	\$ 1,182,195.00	\$ 219,681.00	\$ 2,387.00	-	\$ 222,068.00	\$ 1,404,263.00
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Egleston	\$ 114,094.00	\$ 456,376.00	\$ 570,470.00	\$ 60,428.00	\$ 630,898.00	\$ 75,451	.00 📢	\$ 706,349.00	\$ 219,681.00	\$ 2,387.00	-	\$ 222,068.00	\$ 928,417.00
Grady Memorial Hospital	\$ 114,094.00	\$ 456,376.00	\$ 570,470.00	\$2,378,250.00	\$ 2,948,720.00	\$ 75,451	.00 📢	\$ 3,024,171.00	\$ 219,681.00	\$ 2,387.00	-	\$ 222,068.00	\$ 3,246,239.00
Memorial Health University Medical Center	\$ 114,094.00	\$ 456,376.00	\$ 570,470.00	\$ 911,725.00	\$ 1,482,195.00	\$ 75,451	.00 📢	\$ 1,557,646.00	\$ 219,681.00	\$ 2,387.00	-	\$ 222,068.00	\$ 1,779,714.00
Level II													
Atrium Health Floyd	\$ 68,456.00	\$ 273,826.00	\$ 342,282.00	\$ 80,079.00	\$ 422,361.00	\$ 45,331	.00 📢	\$ 467,692.00	\$ 131,808.00	\$ 1,636.76	-	\$ 133,444.76	\$ 601,136.76
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Scottish R	\$ 68,456.00	\$ 273,826.00	\$ 342,282.00	\$ 45,601.00	\$ 387,883.00	\$ 45,331	.00 📢	\$ 433,214.00	\$ 131,808.00	\$ 1,636.76	-	\$ 133,444.76	\$ 566,658.76
Northeast Georgia Medical Center	\$ 68,456.00	\$ 273,826.00	\$ 342,282.00	\$ 336,404.00	\$ 678,686.00	\$ 45,331	.00	\$ 724,017.00	\$ 131,808.00	\$ 1,636.76	-	\$ 133,444.76	\$ 857,461.76
Northside Gwinnett	\$ 68,456.00	\$ 273,826.00	\$ 342,282.00	\$ 382,754.00	\$ 725,036.00	\$ 45,331	.00 📢	\$ 770,367.00	\$ 131,808.00	\$ 1,636.76	-	\$ 133,444.76	\$ 903,811.76
Piedmont Athens Regional	\$ 68,456.00	\$ 273,826.00	\$ 342,282.00	\$ 176,455.00	\$ 518,737.00	\$ 45,331	.00 📢	\$ 564,068.00	\$ 131,808.00	\$ 1,636.76	-	\$ 133,444.76	\$ 697,512.76
Piedmont Columbus Regional	\$ 68,456.00	\$ 273,826.00	\$ 342,282.00	\$ 243,857.00	\$ 586,139.00	\$ 45,331	.00 📢	\$ 631,470.00	\$ 131,808.00	\$ (17,116.00)	-	\$ 114,692.00	\$ 746,162.00
Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Cent	\$ 68,456.00	\$ 273,826.00	\$ 342,282.00	\$ 317,770.00	\$ 660,052.00	\$ 45,331	.00 📢	\$ 705,383.00	\$ 131,808.00	\$ 1,636.76	-	\$ 133,444.76	\$ 838,827.76
Wellstar North Fulton Hospital	\$ 68,456.00	\$ 273,826.00	\$ 342,282.00	\$ 112,685.00	\$ 454,967.00	\$ 45,331	.00 📢	\$ 500,298.00	\$ 131,808.00	\$ 1,636.76	-	\$ 133,444.76	\$ 633,742.76
Level III													
Advent Health Redmond Hospital	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 11,484	.00	\$ 61,484.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 78,609.00	\$ 140,093.00
Crisp Regional Health Services	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 11,484	.00	\$ 61,484.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 81,109.00	\$ 142,593.00
	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 11,484	.00	\$ 61,484.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 4,075.00	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 87,684.00	\$ 149,168.00
J.D. Archbold Memorial Hospital	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 11,484	.00	\$ 61,484.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 81,109.00	\$ 142,593.00
Piedmont Walton	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	-	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 11,484	.00 📢	\$ 61,484.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 81,109.00	\$ 142,593.00
Level IV													
Atrium Polk Medical Center	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 10,000.00	-	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,317	.00	\$ 12,317.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ (200.00)	-	\$ 24,800.00	\$ 37,117.00
	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 10,000.00	-	\$ 10,000.00				\$ 25,000.00	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	-	\$ 25,451.76	\$ 37,768.76
	\$ 8,100.00	. ,	\$ 10,000.00	-	\$ 10,000.00				\$ 25,000.00		-	\$ 25,451.76	\$ 37,768.76
Memorial Health Meadows Hospital	\$ 8,100.00		\$ 10,000.00	-	\$ 10,000.00				\$ 25,000.00		-	\$ 24,800.00	\$ 37,117.00
Morgan Medical Center	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 10,000.00	-	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,317	.00	\$ 12,317.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 451.76	-	\$ 25,451.76	\$ 37,768.76
Burn Center													
Joseph M. Still Burn Center	\$ 142,618.00	\$ 142,618.00	\$ 285,236.00	\$ 134,714.00	\$ 419,950.00	\$ 37,675	.00	\$ 457,625.00	\$ 109,842.00	\$ 1,193.40	-	\$ 111,035.40	\$ 568,660.40
		\$4,774,606.00			\$ 12,626,158.00						\$ 43,045.00		\$ 16,278,497.00
*Additional Funds from Firework Revenue and Reallocated FY 2023 Base Funds													

Non-Contracted Trauma Centers*	Readiness	Potential Performance Based Pay	Total Readiness Payments	UCC (CY 2019)	Total from Trauma Fund	Registry Support	Total Base Funds	Additional Readiness	Performance Based Pay Reward/ Reduction	TQIP Participation Support	Total Additional Funds	Total Base + Additional
Level III												
Fairview Park Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 8,609.00
Piedmont Cartersville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 8,609.00
Wellstar Cobb	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 8,609.00	\$ 8,609.00
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 25,827.00	\$ 25,827.00	\$ 25,827.00
*One-time TQIP Participation Reimburseme	nt											

Emergency Medical Services Distribution

\$4.1 million was allocated to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) stakeholders during the fiscal year 2023. Our EMS Committee thoroughly evaluates the disbursement of these funds with the primary objective of enhancing the quality of care rendered to trauma patients in Georgia. The allocation of funds encompasses the following key initiatives:

Continued Support for the Automatic Vehicle Locating System (AVLS) Program:

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This initiative provides Wi-Fi to cellular gateways to primary 911 Zone Provider ambulances in Georgia. These gateways facilitate real-time tracking and communication, ensuring seamless coordination between various EMS agencies and hospitals.

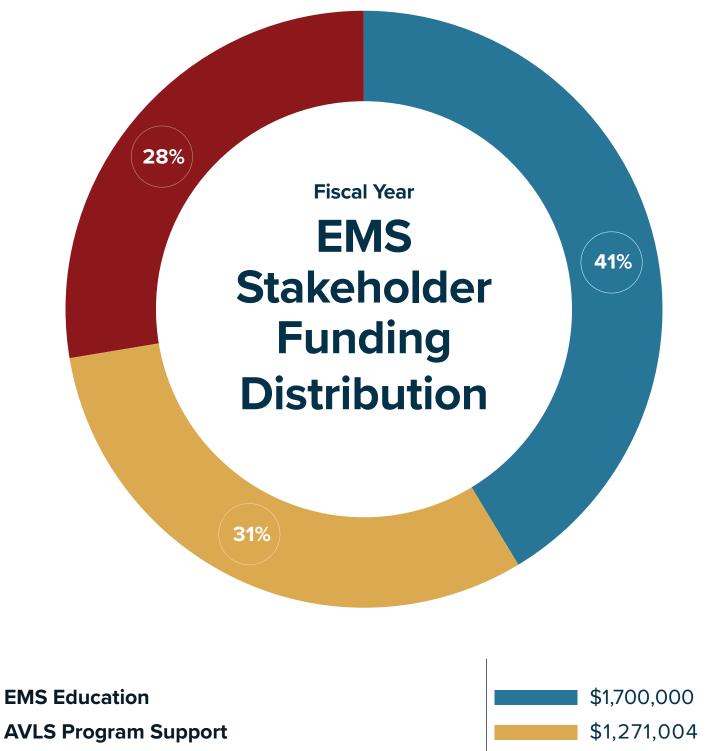
Allocation of \$1.13 Million to EMS Trauma-Related Equipment Grants:

These grants are designated to offer 911-zone ambulances throughout the state the opportunity to procure essential lifesaving equipment. Such equipment enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of EMS operations in responding to trauma cases. Dedication of \$1.7 Million to Support EMS Education through the Georgia Emergency Medical Services Association (GEMSA):

This substantial financial commitment is intended to bolster EMS education initiatives. GEMSA, as a vital stakeholder, utilizes these funds to further advance and elevate the standards of education within the realm of Emergency Medical Services.

The EMS allocation reflects a conscientious effort to fortify and optimize Georgia's Emergency Medical Services ecosystem. The objective is to ensure that trauma patients receive the highest caliber of care while concurrently fostering ongoing advancements in EMS infrastructure and education.

Funding Allocations



Trauma Related-Equipment Grants

\$1,271,004 \$1,138,726

TOTAL

Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2023 **Funding Impact**

Trauma Center Readiness Fund Use

Trauma Center readiness encompasses the financial outlays incurred by the trauma center to maintain a constant state of preparedness for the provision of trauma care services on a 24/7/365 basis. All funded trauma centers are required to report annually on the use of their readiness funding. The graph below summarizes expenditures reported by all 23 funded trauma centers.



Trauma Center FY 2023 Readiness Fund Use Report

18 out of 23 contracted trauma centers reported utilizing funds across multiple categories.*Other Expenses Reported: Trauma Conference Participation, Outreach, Registry Costs, Trauma Association Memberships, and Travel.



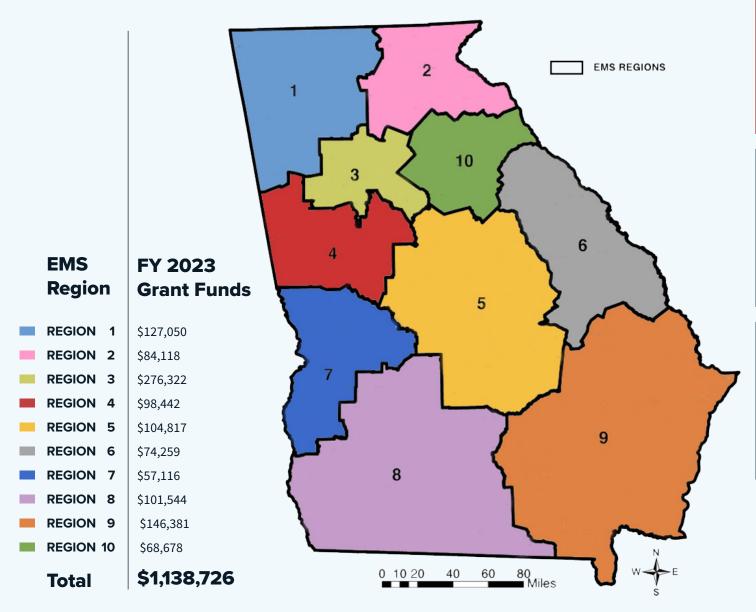
The Georgia Trauma Commission's funding supports approximately 7% of total trauma center readiness costs. Additional funding is necessary to ensure stability and support of our ongoing system expansion.

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Funding Impact

EMS Trauma Related-Equipment Grants

\$1.13 was made available to Georgia's ambulances to purchase life-saving equipment for trauma patients. This year, 170 agencies with 911-zone ambulances received grant funding to purchase equipment like extrication devices, splints for fracture stabilization, portable radios, stretchers & intravenous access kits to provide quality trauma care to injured citizens.



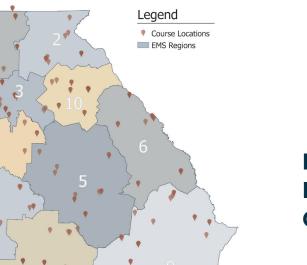


Funding Impact

EMS Education through Georgia Emergency Medical Services Association (GEMSA)

Through the partnership with GEMSA, the Georgia Trauma Commission supported EMS education to 3123 students, resulting in 189,048 contact hours. \$1.7 million was used to support various courses taught throughout the state: Auto Extrication with Patient Care Focus, Axioms of Leadership, EMR | EMT, EMS Instructor Preparedness, Farm Medic, Leadership Program, NAEMT, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care, Trauma Skills Lab.



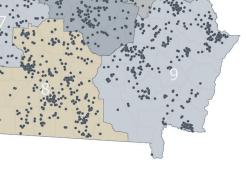


EMS Education: Distribution of GTC-Funded Courses Statewide



2023

EMS Education: Student Participation By Residential Address



Data Sources: Georgia Trauma Commission (2023), Map: Georgia Geospatial Information Office, September 2023

Students
 Counties

EMS Regions

Funding Impact

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Trauma System Development

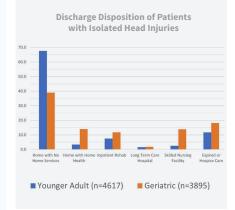


Georgia Quality Improvement Program Focus on Geriatric Trauma Care



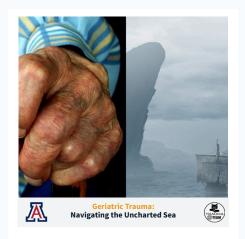
In 2022, 14,551 patients over the age of 64 were treated in Georgia's trauma centers, comprising 36% of the total trauma registry patient population.

Recognizing the unique needs of geriatric trauma patients, GQIP identified several opportunities for further analysis and focused process improvement.



Dr. Eli Mlaver, GQIP Resident Scholar, presented an analysis of GQIP's traumatic brain injury data at the Southeastern Surgical Congress in Savannah, GA, and at the Academic Surgical Congress in Houston, TX this Spring.

These analyses highlight the resource-intensive nature of geriatric TBI patients, calling for a protocolized approach to this complex patient population.



GQIP members meet in person twice a year to gain insight on areas for improvement, learn from each other as well as national experts, and share best practices.

At this year's winter meeting on February 28th, Dr. Bellal Joseph from The University of Arizona provided the keynote address, "Geriatric Trauma: Navigating the Uncharted Sea." Key takeaways from the presentation included the utility of frailty scoring and the need for geriatric-specific patient care protocols to improve outcomes for this growing population.



Trauma System Development

Level IV Trauma Center Consult Visits Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation (PTSF) Consultations.

The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation provided consultative visits to five of the nine Georgia level IV trauma centers to:

1. Evaluate the Level IV trauma centers' readiness for potential state designation visits.

2. Educate the Level IV centers on optimizing operations, including performance improvement, patient safety, and best practices for trauma program development.

3. Provide summary findings, recommendations, and analysis to the Georgia Trauma Commission regarding the performance of Level IV participants in a de-identified manner.



PTSF Georgia Level IV Consult Findings

STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES	RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS			
Community Commitment	 More Dedicated Time for the TPM and TPMD to the Trauma Program 	Clarify Level IV Trauma Center Standards & Enhance Accountability			
Injury Prevention and Outreach	 Increased Time and Financial Support for TPM Education 	Optimize Registry Education and Utilization			
Adequate Facilities and Patient Care Equipment	 Need for Formalized Mentorship from an Upper- Level Trauma Center 	Standardize Clinical Care Through the Use of Clinical Guidelines			
Strong Hospital Leadership Support	 Standardization of Trauma Clinical Care and Process Improvement Plans 	 Develop More Robust Performance Improvement Processe 			
ns viewers nys to		 Promote Collaboration with Higher-Level Trauma Centers 			
ite visits.		 Elevate the State Designation Process 			

In October 2022, two teams comprised of three site reviewers were deployed over five days to conduct the consultative site visits.

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2023 Commission Members

ACS Trauma Systems Consultative Visit and Rural Focused Review

In January 2023, the Georgia Trauma Commission welcomed the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to provide our state with a comprehensive trauma system consultation and rural-focused review. Georgia underwent its first ACS trauma system assessment in 2009. Since then, the trauma system has made significant strides, expanding from 16 designated trauma centers to 34, including 10 ACS-verified centers and 2 burn centers.



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3 Days:1 Full System2 Rural-Focused

<u>522</u>

7 Multidisciplinary Review Team Members From Across the U.S.



100+ Stakeholders in Attendance

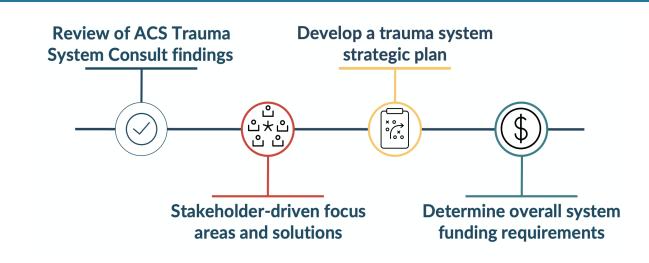




Left to Right: William Oley, MD; Curtis Sandy, MD, FACEP, FAEMS; Mike Person, MD, FACS; Jeffrey Kerby, MD, PhD, FACS; Jorie Klein, MSN, MHA, BSN, RN; Kristan Staudenmayer, MD, MS, FACS; Brian Eastridge, MD, FACS

ACS Consult Priority Recommendations							
SYSTEM-WIDE	RURAL-FOCUSED						
TRAUMA SYSTEM PLAN	RESOURCE ASSESSMENT						
Create an inclusive trauma system (noted from 2009 Review) Multidisciplinary advisory group	Perform a rural trauma system resource, funding needs, and capacity assessment emphasizing EMS, trauma hospitals, and transfer capabilities						
SYSTEM TRIAGE AND PATIENT FLOW							
Standardize regional destination protocols, including appropriate patient transport to level IV centers	WORKFORCE Focus on recruitment and retention of rural physicians, nurses,						
Develop an RMOC structure statewide for resource monitoring,	and EMS providers						
patient transport, transfers, and load balancing	EDUCATION						
SYSTEM-WIDE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT	Standardize rural trauma educational programs to:						
Create an inclusive trauma system multidisciplinary advisory group	Provide the capability to manage traumatically injured patients across the continuum						
	Provide mentorship and support from urban facilities for rural trauma program managers in process improvement training						

Next Steps



2023 Funding Allocations

2023 Funding Impact

Trauma System Development

2023 Commission Members



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Fiscal Year 2023 Commission Members



Dennis W. Ashley, MD, FACS

Will C. Sealy Endowed Chair Professor of Surgery Mercer University SOM Director of Trauma Atrium Health Navicent



John C. Bleacher, MD, FACS

Chair Georgia Trauma Foundation Pediatric Surgeon | Retired



Courtney Terwilliger

Public Safety Coordinator Emanuel County



James R. Dunne, MD, FACS Vice-Chair

Chief of Trauma & Surgical Critical Care Memorial University Medical Center



Regina S. Medeiros, DNP, MHSA, RN Secretary-Treasurer

Trauma Program Director Wellstar MCG Health



Jim Adkins, BA Consultant



LAW Corp

Michelle Wallace, DNP, RN, TCRN, NEA-BC, FACHE

Chief Nursing Officer Grady Health System



Vic Drawdy Program Director RYAM | Jesup, Georgia Trauma System Development



Pete Quinones Principle and CEO

MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service

2023 Funding Impac



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