



# fact sheet

## GeorgiaCares

*GeorgiaCares* is a statewide coalition of private and public partners that seeks to provide education and assistance to individuals who need help making challenging health insurance decisions. *GeorgiaCares* includes the SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program), which seeks to answer complex questions related to Medicare, prescription assistance programs, long-term care insurance and supplemental insurance. This includes helping beneficiaries enroll in the new Medicare Prescription Drug benefit. *GeorgiaCares* also includes the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and the Lifelong Planning Program (LLP). SMP provides education to beneficiaries and their families on Medicare fraud, error and abuse, and reports such occurrences to law enforcement agencies. LLP helps mid-life and older consumers prepare holistically for a range of future needs and expenses. This includes exploring long-term care services, costs and ways to prepare early.

*GeorgiaCares* has 88 partners. These partnerships include state universities, pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, physicians, drug stores, medical and pharmacy associations, financial institutions, FDIC, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Secretary of State, reverse mortgage companies, fraud investigators, and a number of volunteer organizations.

*GeorgiaCares* provides free counseling and information to families, caregivers, Medicare beneficiaries and interested individuals about insurance assistance programs, including:

- Medicare,
- Prescription assistance programs,
- Medicare and Medicaid fraud, and
- Private financing options for future long-term care needs.

### **Cost Savings**

In the last three years, *GeorgiaCares* has enabled clients to save more than \$67 million in health insurance and related expenses.

### **How does the program work?**

*GeorgiaCares* services are available across Georgia through 12 local Area Agencies on Aging. *GeorgiaCares* has 31 paid trained counselors, 333 trained volunteers and six state staff who provide one-on-one counseling and educational sessions to groups of interested individuals. The *GeorgiaCares* toll free number, 800-669-8387, automatically routes callers to local offices. Every effort is made to respond to callers within 48 hours.

Georgia Department of Human Resources

Office of Communications

[www.dhr.georgia.gov](http://www.dhr.georgia.gov)

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