

Georgia Department of Human Resources

DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES

The Division of Aging Services administers a statewide system of services for older Georgians and adults with disabilities. These programs offer maximum independence and dignity for participants, especially the most vulnerable. The division provides in-home services to maintain independence; public education and outreach services; health promotion services; senior employment services and an ombudsman program for Georgians in long-term care. The division is responsible for investigation and protective services for vulnerable adults through Adult Protective Services.

The division's FY 2006 budget is \$131.3 million, including \$74.9 million in state funds.

The **Community Care Services Program (CCSP)** helps Medicaid-eligible individuals who cannot perform activities of daily living to continue living in their homes and communities and avoid placement in a nursing home. In FY 2005, Georgia's CCSP served 15,830 people and did so at a per-person cost that is among the lowest of southeastern states. The program spent \$5,935 on each consumer. The average cost of a nursing home placement was \$22,663. This means that taxpayers saved \$16,728 for each CCSP client who avoided institutional placement.

In FY 2005:

- 808 Georgians received **adult day health services**. This includes nursing care, personal care, occupational, speech and physical therapy, dietary services, and social work.
- 3,455 received **alternative living services**. These services are provided in state-licensed residences with 24-hour supervision and support services for people who cannot remain in their homes.
- 7,518 persons received **emergency response services**. These services provide two-way electronic communication between a monitoring service and an isolated individual.
- 3,678 consumers received **home-delivered meals**.
- 1,363 individuals received skilled **home health services and social services** provided by a home health agency.
- 12,596 individuals received **personal support services** such as light housekeeping, basic personal care and caregiver respite.

The **Home and Community-Based Services Program (HCBS)** is available to elderly people age 60 and older. It provides supports to older Georgians so that they may remain independent and self-sufficient.

In FY 2005, 36,086 seniors received HCBS services. This includes:

- **Congregate and home-delivered meals** are provided to groups in settings such as senior centers, and to individuals who are temporarily or permanently homebound. The meals meet at least one-third of a person's recommended daily nutritional requirement. The group meals also provide opportunities for adult education, socializing and recreation. In FY 2005, a total of 15,624 individuals received home delivered meals and 13,762 were served in senior centers.
- **In-Home Services** helped 6,231 people stay in their homes by providing helpers who performed routine household tasks, personal care, emergency response, home modification, or chore services.

The **National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)** supports family caregivers as its targeted client group rather than care receivers. This program is available to family caregivers, age 18 and older, of persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias as well as persons caring for frail, older adults with chronic health conditions. In FY 2005, this program supported caregivers with multiple program and services. Examples of the caregiver services include: 798 family caregivers received adult day care services, 1,017 caregivers received case management assistance, and 1,119 family caregivers received temporary relief from their care giving responsibilities through respite services provided by Georgia's aging network.

The **Wellness Program** is aimed at increasing the ability of older adults to perform everyday activities and remain living in their own homes. Activities are focused on health promotion and disease prevention. Services are designed to improve health status, increase functional abilities, avoid or delay problems caused by chronic diseases and enhance quality of life. In FY 2005, the Wellness Program served a total of 18,047 clients.

APS serves persons over age 65 and disabled persons over age 18 who do not reside in a long-term care facility. Services are provided in all 159 counties. The program investigates reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation and provides intervention to reduce the risk of further maltreatment. Program staff find another residence for the abused person; arrange for medical assistance; educate caregivers as to proper care; find a senior center to provide day services; and, if necessary get law enforcement to intervene. In FY 2005, data from February to June, a monthly average of 3,681 adults received APS services.

The **Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** seeks resolution of problems and advocates for the rights of residents of long-term care facilities with the goal of enhancing the quality of life and care of residents. In FY 2005, the Ombudsman program visited residents in nursing homes and personal care homes and provided them with information and education. The program worked to resolve 6,779 complaints. It resolved 94% of complaints to the complainant's satisfaction.

The **Elderly Legal Assistance Program (ELAP)** promotes prevention of costly legal problems through the provision of legal information and education to seniors 60 and over in a variety of areas of civil law. Representation is provided when necessary. ELAP served 31,950 seniors in FY 2005. Seniors also received brief legal assistance from the division's partner, **the Georgia Senior Legal Hotline**.

The **GeorgiaCares Program** is a private-public partnership that consists of: Georgia's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), the Senior Medicare Patrol and a special initiative to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to all available low-cost prescription medication programs. About 548 trained volunteer counselors provide information on Medicare, Medicare-approved drug discount programs, long-term care insurance, Medicare Supplemental Insurance (Medigap), Medicare savings programs and low cost prescription assistance programs. They also help Medicare beneficiaries sort through complicated Medicare issues and educate them on Medicare fraud, error and abuse. Over the last three years, GeorgiaCares has enabled clients to save more than \$72 million in health insurance and related expenses.

The **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)** provides part-time community service assignments for low-income people 55 and older and helps them obtain employment. In FY 2005, 89% of participants had incomes below the federal poverty level; 71% were over age 60.

Looking to the future

The aging of Georgia's population is one of the most significant trends affecting our state today. By 2011, the first baby boomers – the generation born between 1946 and 1964 – will celebrate their 65th birthdays. Georgia's population aged 60 and older is expected to increase 81.6 percent between 1990 and 2010. Those 85 and older are by far the fastest growing age group; they will increase by 264.9% by 2010.

This growth in the elderly population is placing greater demands on state government. To meet these challenges, the Division of Aging Services continues to strengthen its public-private partnerships with an array of community-based service agencies. By focusing on the outcomes of these services and streamlining program operations, the division makes sure that the services are cost-effective and that they respond to the needs of elderly and disabled Georgians.