



The Georgia Council on Aging was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1977. Council members are appointed by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. The Council has twenty members, including ten consumers at least 60 years of age and ten service providers. Members are chosen to represent all older Georgians. They are selected to ensure that minorities, low-income, rural, urban, and public and private organizations are included.



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**Georgia Council on Aging**

*Advocating for Aging Georgians  
and their Families since 1977*



# Georgia Council on Aging

## The Council's Mission

- » Advocate with and on behalf of aging Georgians and their families to improve their quality of life.
- » Educate, advise, inform and make recommendations concerning programs for the elderly in Georgia.
- » Serve in an advisory capacity on aging issues to the Governor, General Assembly, Board of Human Services, and all other state agencies.

## Advocacy efforts include

- » Recommending legislation
- » Developing and presenting testimony at public hearings
- » Training advocates across the state
- » Providing leadership to the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE)
- » Providing leadership to the Georgia for a Lifetime initiative which will make recommendations to the Governor and legislators concerning the aging of Georgia's population

## Education activities include

- » Seminars to increase public awareness of aging issues
- » Presentations to legislative and community groups concerning aging issues
- » Encouragement of gerontology education in the state's universities, colleges, vocational and public schools
- » Georgia for a Lifetime seminars, symposia and reports providing research, best practices, and "tools" for meeting the challenges and opportunities presented by Georgia's aging population

## Service activities include

- » Interaction with state departments regarding their plans and programs on aging
- » Networking and collaboration with other organizations
- » Representing older adults by serving on committees and task forces
- » Technical assistance to local communities in their efforts to plan for the aging of their residents

## Special Events

The Council organizes events throughout the year.

- » *Senior Week at the Capitol* brings senior advocates from across the state together with their legislators during the General Assembly session.
- » *The Vita R. Ostrander Advocacy Award* recognizes an older volunteer engaged in statewide advocacy
- » *The Martha Eaves Advocating for Positive Change Awards* recognize older advocacy volunteers within each of the state's 12 Area Agency on Aging regions
- » *Outstanding Legislator and Special Legislative Awards* recognize legislators and members of the legislative staff who have worked tirelessly on aging issues or given special support to aging advocates
- » *Quarterly meetings of the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly* prioritize issues, develop recommended legislation, train advocates, and support their efforts.



## Publications

- » *Annual Report*
- » *Fact Sheets and brochures* on CO-AGE legislative and budget issues
- » *Legislative Bulletins* for CO-AGE participants
- » *Senior Issues Newsletters* published weekly during the General Assembly session and monthly thereafter in collaboration with the Georgia Gerontology Society and the Georgia Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

## CO-AGE

The Council established the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly and continues to provide leadership. The Coalition enables the Council to obtain statewide input on aging concerns. Participation is open to any organization, business, or individual with an interest in aging.

