

2025 CO-AGE Legislative Priority

Medicaid in Assisted Living Facilities



The Issue

- Many older adults who have physical or cognitive decline need assistance with activities of daily living and nursing oversight. Those with adequate means can receive these services in assisted living homes; however, assisted living is not funded through Medicaid in the state of Georgia, limiting who is able to receive the level of care
- Advocates have been unable to garner the support from the Georgia Legislature and the Georgia Department of Community Health to have Medicaid funding for assisted living in Georgia

The Recommendation

- Secure funding from the Georgia Legislature to pay for a survey and report to share with the legislature and Department of Community Health that will answer how much Medicaid in assisted living programs are costing in other states and how the programs work. Providing these answers will help show that a Medicaid in assisted living program can be financially viable in Georgia as shown in other states

The Why

- Older adults who have physical or cognitive decline often require a level of care that can be better provided within an assisted living program
- Assisted living care can be costly, with a national average of \$54,000 annually, according to the National Council on Aging. Older adults and their families often have trouble finding ways to pay for care
- In states where it is available, Medicaid can help to cover the costs of assisted living care for services such as transportation, personal care and more, allowing more older adults to receive services