

Aging Spotlight

AUGUST 2009

Community Care Services Program

The **Community Care Services Program (CCSP)** helps frail older adults and persons with disabilities remain in their own homes and receive services in their community, as an alternative to a nursing home. CCSP is also referred to as a “Medicaid waiver program” because it serves individuals with limited incomes and resources.

In Georgia, the Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services allocates funding for CCSP to the state’s 12 Area Agencies on Aging. In FY 2010, the Atlanta region’s CCSP allocation will exceed \$34 million dollars to offer an array of skilled and supportive services.

CCSP services are very cost-effective in comparison to nursing home care. The statewide average annual Medicaid cost per person to receive CCSP services is \$8,550, compared to \$26,573 to receive long-term care in a nursing home. Thus, CCSP can serve **three times as many individuals** in their homes for roughly the same cost for one person in a nursing home. Not only do older adults and persons with disabilities prefer to receive services where they live, providing services in the community saves more than \$18,000 per person per year.

Furthermore, CCSP builds personal responsibility and strengthens family support by extending the capacity of family members who want to take care of their loved ones but who must work or who have health issues of their own.

Individuals remain in the program four years on average. In FY 2008, 12,986 Georgia residents received CCSP services. Of those, the Atlanta region served more than 2,900 individuals, some 22 percent.

ARC contracts with Visiting Nurse Health System (VNHS) to implement the case management services in the CCSP program. ARC receives applications and refers eligible individuals to VNHS for services. The VNHS completes a home assessment and, together with the individual, the family and the physician, determines which services are needed. More than 300 Medicaid-approved providers deliver these services. The care coordinator maintains regular contact with the individual and caregivers to assure that services are appropriate and that they meet the needs of the person.

CCSP has been a lifesaver for my mother and father and for me, enabling them to remain together in their own home. I work and can only get by occasionally and I am so grateful.

CCSP caregiver/family member

CCSP Services

- » Adult day health
- » Personal care homes
- » Emergency response services
- » Skilled nursing services
- » Physical, speech or occupational therapy
- » Medical social services
- » Home health aide services
- » Out-of-home respite care
- » Personal support services
- » Home-delivered meals