## **Food Assistance Programs**

Local organizations help ensure elderly citizens have a balanced diet and receive essential vitamins and minerals to remain healthy. Through nutrition programs, congregate meals, home-delivered meals and food pantries, these programs help Georgia seniors afford the nutritious food they need.

Program Name	Phone Number	Description
Georgia Emergency Food Assistance Program	404- 657- 5244	The Emergency Food Assistance Program is a government-funded initiative that offers free monthly food packages to low-income individuals and seniors in all 159 counties of Georgia. This program aims to supplement the diets of older adults with shelf-stable items like canned meat, pasta, peanut butter, and bottled juices. Fresh fruits, vegetables, and frozen meats are also distributed when possible.
Feeding Georgia	404- 419- 1738	Feeding Georgia is a nonprofit organization that provides food distributions to low-income seniors across the state. The program aims to ensure that seniors with limited incomes can access nutritious meals without sacrificing other essential needs. With over 700 locations available, including community kitchens, food pantries, senior centers, and shelters, residents can easily find support and nourishment.
Georgia Meals on Wheels	404- 351- 3889	The Georgia Meals on Wheels program provides regular, hot meal delivery to homebound seniors and residents with mobility issues. Eligible individuals must be 60 or older with a disability or difficulty in shopping or preparing meals. Seniors can choose from different meal delivery options, enjoy social interactions, and receive safety checks. Community centers also offer meal options and opportunities for socializing with others, if transportation is available.

Supplemental 877- exp Nutrition 423- hou Program 4746 Inter	Senior SNAP program in Georgia offers monthly benefits eligible seniors aged 60 or older, helping them afford food enses. To qualify, seniors must not be employed and their is sehold income should meet the program's set limits. Erested seniors need to apply and undergo a phone erview to determine eligibility.
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## **Home Repair and Modifications**

Seniors and those with disabilities can access a variety of local resources to help them pay for home repairs and modifications. Programs in Georgia have different eligibility criteria and often assist retirees by providing grants or loans.

Program Name	Phone Number	Description
Georgia Section 504 Home Repair Program	706- 546- 2162	The Section 504 Home Repair Program offers grants of up to \$10,000 to seniors residing in rural areas. These grants aim to ensure that their homes are safe and sanitary.

## **Legal Resources**

Many organizations offer free or low-cost legal services to Georgia seniors. Older adults can access advice on issues such as estate planning, living wills and power of attorney. Some firms also act as long-term care ombudsmen, advocating for the rights of seniors in senior living communities.

Program Name	Phone Number	Description
<u>Georgia</u> <u>Elderly Legal</u>	866- 552- 4464	Georgia's Elderly Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) provides free legal support for noncriminal cases to seniors aged 60 and older. ELAP's team of lawyers and paralegals offer information, counseling, and representation on various issues, such as

Assistance Program		consumer protection, elder abuse, health care benefits, and long-term care. Additionally, ELAP conducts community education sessions. To access ELAP services, seniors can contact their local Area Agency on Aging. Services are available in all counties across Georgia.
Georgia Legal Services Program	706- 721- 2327	The Georgia Legal Services Program offers free civil legal aid to seniors aged 60+ and low-income, rural residents in Georgia. Alongside the GeorgiaCares hotline, GLSP provides a public benefits hotline to assist seniors in enrolling for Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps, and other programs. Attorneys and advocates evaluate cases for representation and make referrals to other suitable legal aid sources, as needed.
Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program	866- 552- 4464	The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in the state offers trained volunteers to assist seniors in Covington with researching assisted living options and finding ways to cover their care expenses. The ombudsman also ensures residents are aware of their rights and advocates for them to receive the services they deserve.
Georgia Senior Legal Aid	404- 389- 9992	Georgia Senior Legal Aid partners with Atlanta Legal Aid to offer a helpline exclusively for Georgia residents aged 60 and above. This free service is particularly designed for low-income seniors who live independently and lack traditional social support. Our dedicated team of volunteer attorneys provides over-the-phone legal advice and referrals on various topics, including eviction, foreclosure, consumer fraud, and public benefit claims.

## **Medicaid Resources**

Navigating the Medicaid system is often difficult and confusing. Several Georgia resources help older adults by providing advice on Medicaid options, waiver programs and eligibility criteria to help seniors receive the right health care benefits.

Program Name	Phone Number	Description
Georgia Medicaid Home and Community Based Services	877- 423- 4746	Seniors aged 65 and over may receive financial assistance from Georgia Medicaid for memory care communities. A preadmission screening and review of assets and income are necessary for acceptance. The screening helps determine if a memory care community is the best option for the senior.

# Senior Engagement

Senior engagement resources and programs in Georgia help older adults remain active and ensure they contribute to the community. Resources include wellness programs, volunteer opportunities, support groups and organizations that help residents connect with the community to live fulfilling lives.

Program Name	Phone Number	Description
Alzheimer's Association Georgia Chapter	800- 272- 3900	The state Alzheimer's Association is dedicated to finding a cure for dementia and memory issues. They conduct global research, engage with communities, and advocate for government initiatives. Their programs include a 24/7 helpline, support and education programs, early-stage social engagement programs, and online tools.
Georgia Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)	404- 657- 5332	The Senior Community Service Employment Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, supports unemployed individuals aged 55 and above in their efforts to re-enter the workforce. This program is designed to assist low-income individuals with limited employment opportunities. Participants engage in part-time community service assignments and receive compensation for their hours worked.

Social Security offices in Georgia help seniors and disabled people access the benefits they're entitled to. Older adults can contact their local office for information about receiving retirement benefits, disability allowance and Supplemental Security Income.

Program Name	Phone Number	Description
Georgia Social Security		Social Security provides income for retirees and individuals unable to work due to disability. Funding is derived from payroll taxes paid by employers, employees, and self-employed individuals. Upon retirement, monthly payments are determined by previous earnings.

#### **Tax Assistance**

Seniors can apply for tax assistance from several Georgia resources. Elderly residents and those with disabilities could be eligible for tax exemptions on medical expenses, reductions on property tax and other tax assistance programs.

Program Name	Phone Number	Description
Georgia Property Tax Homestead Exemptions		The Senior Property Tax Exemption program offers a \$4,000 exemption from county property taxes for individuals aged 65 and above, subject to meeting program requirements.

Program Name	Phone Number	Description
Georgia Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	877- 423- 4746	The Georgia Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program offers seniors in Georgia who have difficulty paying their utility bills the opportunity to apply for assistance. Eligible seniors can receive help with energy bill payments, repairs to their energy systems, and weatherization assistance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
Georgia Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) – Atlanta	877- 423- 4746	The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) in Georgia helps seniors on fixed incomes by providing financial support for water bills. To be eligible, residents must live in Georgia, have income at or below 60% of the state's median, and use a registered water supplier with the Department of Human Services. LIHWAP covers water expenses, ensuring seniors have access to essential water services for better hygiene and overall well-being during financial challenges.

# **Utility & Energy Bill Assistance**

Low-income seniors who are struggling to meet the costs of maintaining their homes can find support from organizations that offer assistance with utility and energy bills. Georgia retirees could also qualify for emergency funding programs if they're in danger of losing utility services due to unpaid invoices.

## **Veteran's Services**

Georgia retirees who have served in the U.S. military can find support from local veteran services. These offices and organizations help vets access the benefits they're eligible for and provide advice and information on a variety of issues.

Program Name	Phone Number	Description
Georgia VA Benefits and		The Georgia VA Benefits and Health Care program offers health care and financial benefits to eligible veterans, including seniors. With medical centers in August, Decatur, and Dublin, as well as outpatient clinics in various cities, veterans have convenient access to care. The Veterans Benefits Administration has a regional

<u>Health</u>
Care

benefits office in Decatur and intake sites in other cities, ensuring seniors can easily access their benefits.