



Florida's Long-Term Care Partnership Program

Beneficiary Information
1-800-963-5337 | www.floridashine.org



At least 70 percent of people over the age of 65 will require long-term care services at some point in their lives. Medicare and private health insurance programs do not pay for the majority of long-term care (LTC) services that most people need, for example, help with personal care such as dressing or using the bathroom independently. Long-term care planning is essential for individuals to be able to receive the care they might need.

The information contained in this resource is provided by the **SHINE** (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Program to help consumers and their caregivers understand how the Long-Term Care Partnership Program makes LTC insurance more affordable and available to consumers.

Why Purchase Long-Term Care Insurance?

Most people are in favor of maintaining their independence and control over their financial resources. The following facts about the costs and coverage of LTC may help:

Medicare

- Medicare only covers medically necessary skilled nursing care and home health care if you meet certain conditions.
- The average annual cost in 2017 for a semi-private room in a Florida nursing facility is close to \$87,600 (\$96,725 for private).

Medicaid

- Medicaid requires individuals to spend down their assets to \$2,000 in order to qualify for LTC benefits.
- There are strict rules and penalties for transferring assets to qualify for Medicaid.
- Many individuals entering a nursing facility as a private patient will eventually spend down their assets and then qualify for Medicaid.

What Is the Long-Term Care Partnership Program?

Florida lawmakers approved a senior protection bill that provides reforms to make LTC insurance affordable, available, and marketable. The Long-Term Care Partnership Program was developed to encourage individuals to purchase LTC insurance who might otherwise turn to Medicaid to finance their

long-term care. The partnership is a balance between public and private programs which accomplishes the following:

- Encourages individuals to plan for their LTC needs by purchasing insurance that will match the amount (dollar-to-dollar) of assets they wish to preserve; and
- Assures that when applying for Medicaid coverage, individuals with a qualified LTC partnership policy are eligible for dollar-to-dollar asset disregard.

For questions concerning Medicaid eligibility and the dollar-for-dollar asset disregard, please contact the Department of Children and Families ACCESS Call Center at 1-866-762-2237.

LTC Partnership Policy Standards

Individuals should call their insurance company or agent to ask if their policy is a Partnership policy. Insurance companies that sell long-term care policies and participate in the Partnership program may be able to exchange a policy to a Partnership policy. Florida also currently honors policies purchased in most states that host partnership programs.

For more information and to review frequently asked questions on Florida's LTC Partnership Program, visit http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/ltc_partnership_program/faqs.shtml.

To review other standard policy requirements such as coverage, benefits, protections, asset disregard, reciprocity, and inflation protection, visit the National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care website at www.longtermcare.gov.

SHINE Assistance

The **SHINE Program** encourages individuals to consider what their future long-term care needs may be, and to start planning for those needs. We provide a *Long-Term Care Insurance Self-Assessment Guide* that may prove helpful to consider various options and costs.

To receive a copy of this publication, or for more information on long-term care planning and insurance, you may contact the SHINE Program by calling the *Elder Helpline* toll-free at 1-800-96-ELDER (**1-800-963-5337**). The SHINE program website can be found at www.floridashine.org.