



# Florida's Long-Term Care Partnership Program

## Beneficiary Information

1-800-963-5337 | [www.floridashine.org](http://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 2013 for a semi-private room in a Florida nursing facility is close to \$80,300 (\$88,700 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?

In 2006, 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](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](http://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](http://www.floridashine.org).