

AGING MATTERS: SC Access



McConnell

Imagine being separated from an elderly family member or loved one in need of help or services who lives alone in South Carolina. If you're like many families across our state, you may find that younger generations have moved away from their older relatives to further their education, get married and start a family, find a job in another state, or serve in the military. Where are they to look for resources if their older relatives need help finding various services available in their communities?

SC Access, a program administered through the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, is designed to be a one-stop source for information about services and resources for older adults, persons with disabilities, their caregivers, families, and professionals. The purpose of SC Access is to provide constituents with the resources to make good, informed decisions that enable them to live as independently as possible. SC Access is a free internet-based resource that makes it easier for multiple generations to utilize its benefits. The website, www.scaccesshelp.org (which can also be accessed through the Office on Aging's website at www.aging.sc.gov), offers a searchable database with over 13,000 programs and services available throughout South Carolina. This database is designed to help those interested identify the services they need and

find the agencies or companies that provide such services. The SC Access database can be searched in multiple ways to include: county, keywords, and service categories. There is also a “Search By Needs” feature that can help individuals find services by choosing statements that best describe their situation. One of the main goals of SC Access database is to provide as much information to the constituent as possible. Each profile not only lists the name and address of the business, but also includes information such as eligibility requirements, intake procedures, insurances accepted, and descriptions of services.

Other components available on the SC Access website offer additional resources. The “Learn About” link on www.scaccesshelp.org is an educational section that contains a number of topics of interest ranging from caregiving and respite to resources for planning for long-term care. Each topic contains articles, fact sheets, checklists and other helpful websites where you can read about other helpful information. SC Access also maintains a calendar of community, state, and national events related to aging and disability topics such as trainings, workshops, and health fairs.

For those who may need additional guidance, Information and Referral (I&R) Specialists are located around the state in Aging and Disability Resource Centers. These I&R Specialists can help guide you through finding the services needed and make referrals to the appropriate providers. They can also help explain eligibility for services and assist with long-term care planning. To be connected with your local Information and Referral Specialist, contact the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging at 1-800-868-9095.

Question of the Week

Q:) I would like to add an upcoming senior event in my community to the calendar on SC Access. What should I do?

A:) To add an event to the online calendar, call the Office on Aging at 1-800-868-9095 or send an e-mail with the event’s details to scaccess@aging.sc.gov.

*For more information, contact the SC Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging
(803-734-9900 or 800-868-9095) or visit www.aging.sc.gov.*