Social Security and Medicare provide income and health security to older Americans aged 65 and older. Growing debt burdens, dwindling pensions, and increasing healthcare costs make these programs more important than ever. Here's what they do for Georgia.

Social Security in Georgia

Older Georgians count on Social Security benefits earned through a lifetime of work
- A total of 91 percent, or 1,031,445, of older Georgia residents received Social Security in 2012. The average annual benefit was $14,800.
- Social Security accounted for 59 percent of the typical older Georgian’s family income.
- Low- and middle-income older adults in Georgia are even more reliant on Social Security’s earned benefit, typically receiving 92 percent of their family income from Social Security.

Social Security keeps middle-income older Georgians from falling into poverty
- Census data show about 12 percent, or 109,489, of older Georgians living in poverty.
- Without Social Security income, an additional 41 percent of older Georgians, or 378,531 people, would fall into poverty.

Social Security plays an important role in Georgia’s economy
- Social Security provided $21.2 billion in benefits to all Georgians and $15 billion in benefits to Georgians aged 65 and older in 2012.

Medicare in Georgia

Medicare provides guaranteed health coverage, but out-of-pocket costs are high
- On average, Georgia’s Medicare beneficiaries spent an estimated $4,456 on out-of-pocket health care costs in 2012.
- In 2012, older Georgia adults enrolled in Medicare spent, on average, an estimated 15 percent of their income on out-of-pocket health care costs.

Medicare provides peace of mind for older Georgians
- Nearly 97 percent of older Georgians were enrolled in Medicare in 2011.

Medicare plays an important role in Georgia’s economy
- The Medicare program spent an estimated $10 billion on health care services for 1,082,920 older Georgians in 2012.