



May 21, 2020

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Maryland Department of Aging Launches Caregiver Services Corps to Support Seniors in their Homes During COVID-19

Baltimore, MD –The Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) launched a new program called Caregiver Services Corps (CSC), connecting volunteer caregivers with seniors who have suddenly found they need assistance with everyday tasks because family and friends are unavailable due to exposure or illness.

The CSC program is designed to quickly deploy volunteers and resources to the homes of Maryland residents, 65 and older, to assist them with urgent needs such as, but not limited to:

- Assistance with bathing or daily hygiene routines
- Delivering essential groceries
- Help with ambulation or transferring
- Aid with telehealth appointments

“The Caregiver Services Corps is the first statewide program of its kind in the nation” said Secretary of Aging, Rona E. Kramer. “Our goals are to provide back-up support for family or friends of seniors who are unavailable to provide care, add to the support services in place for seniors, and answer the challenges of caregiving during COVID-19.”

Seniors or their caregivers should call 2-1-1 to access the service. Callers will be transferred to the **Caregiver Services Corps** help center. The center has trained specialists who are available 7 days a week to evaluate the needs of seniors and help get them the assistance needed. You can also call the Caregiver Services Corps directly at 1-800-337-8958.

People should always work in conjunction with their primary care physician or insurance company to arrange for services that are ongoing long-term needs, those that are for more than a few days.

All CSC participants will also be enrolled in the Senior Call Check program. The program is available to anyone 65 and older and is a free service to all Maryland residents. Participants will receive an automated daily check-in call in addition to a live weekly call from a trained volunteer. The automated calls provide a new daily message offering COVID-19 updates. If the participant does not respond to the automated calls, an alternate person is contacted to check in on the senior.

We urge Marylanders to volunteer to be a part of the Caregiver Services Corps effort to help our neighbors in the community who need assistance. There are many ways you can help with both in-home and non-contact roles. You do not need to work in the healthcare industry to volunteer. To volunteer to be an in-home caregiver go to the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps website mdr.health.maryland.gov. To volunteer for a non-contact role, go to the Maryland VOAD DART website <https://dart-md.communityos.org/>.

To learn more about the Caregiver Services Corps, visit: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/CSC.aspx>

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**To register for Senior Call Check, call 1-866-50-CHECK or
visit: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/senior-call-check.aspx>**

The Maryland Department of Aging helps to establish Maryland as an attractive location for all older adults through vibrant communities and supportive services that offer the opportunity to live healthy and meaningful lives. For more information, visit aging.maryland.gov.

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