

Save Money and Save Lives

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States. State governments can save money and save lives by helping their state employees and Medicaid participants quit smoking through their healthcare coverage. The State of Georgia currently offers very little assistance to members of either group seeking to quit smoking.

The health effects of smoking are well known to most everyone—smoking increases a person’s chances of suffering from chronic diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease, and lung and other cancers. Helping smokers quit saves thousands of dollars in health care expenditures per smoker. These savings in medical expenses benefit smokers, insurance companies, employers, and governments.

The U.S. Public Health Service’s Clinical Practice Guideline, *Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence*, recommends seven medications and three types of counseling that are scientifically-proven to be effective in helping smokers quit. We, the undersigned organizations, urge the State of Georgia to provide these cessation benefits to our state employees and Medicaid recipients.

Our organization/business agrees for our name to be listed in support of smoking cessation benefits for state employees and Georgia Medicaid recipients to reduce smoking, save money and save lives.

Organization Name: _____

Authorizing Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return to:
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Georgia Smoking Cessation Partnership