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The mission of Council on Aging is to transform Charlotte-Mecklenburg into a *senior-friendly*\* community through education and advocacy.

## **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Council on Aging develops education programs to inform and empower aging adults, people who care for aging adults, service providers and community leaders. Most programs are collaborations with other agencies, organizations and companies in the community. Guest speakers and panelists are selected to provide participants with the most current information available on a specific topic.

Current education programs include:

**Care Management** – An overview of care management, how to effectively use a care manager in decisions about care for yourself and/or a loved one, and finding the "right" care manager for your situation.

**Credit Counseling** – Learn about general credit issues, budgeting and savings; about protecting yourself from identity theft and fraud; planning for retirement income after age 55.

**Fire and Life Safety** - Important fire safety tips to protect your home and loved ones and ways to safely heat your home during cold weather.

**Legislative Agenda on Aging (held every February)** – Elected officials report on their efforts for creating a *senior friendly* \* community and report on their agenda on aging issues that will impact the quality of life for Charlotte-Mecklenburg's aging population.

Candidates' Forum (held every year prior to General Elections) – an opportunity to hear the viewpoint of local, state and federal election candidates on issues affecting you as you age with an opportunity to ask guestions and voice concerns to the candidates during the Forum.

Annual Conference (held every May in honor of Older Americans Month) - provides a platform for identifying or developing projects that can help transform Charlotte-Mecklenburg into a truly senior-friendly\* community.

Education programs addressing specific key issues or solutions can be developed and tailored for diverse audiences, often in collaboration with community partners and aging industry professionals, that educate, support or facilitate advocacy.

If you or your organization would like to host a current education program or if you have a specific key issue or solution you'd like addressed, please contact Kellie Visker Education/Advocacy Manager, 704-391-5216, Ext. 204 or <a href="mailto:kvisker@charmeckcoa.org">kvisker@charmeckcoa.org</a>.

\*A senior-friendly community allows aging adults to maintain independence, dignity and quality of life.