



NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCDCA's Identity Theft Unit Celebrates One Year Anniversary

Columbia, SC... The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs is celebrating the one-year anniversary of its Identity Theft Unit. In the twelve months following its launch, the Unit's activities have reached nearly **20,000 South Carolina consumers**. "With security breaches frequently making headlines and scammers continuously attempting to separate consumers from their personal information, the Identity Theft Unit is an invaluable resource for South Carolinians," said Marti Phillips, SCDCA Identity Theft Unit Director.

Since October 1, 2013, the Unit has:

- Made **34 presentations** to over **14,700 people**, including consumer groups, state agencies, law enforcement and businesses;
- Fielded more than **4,200 calls**, approximately **50%** of which consisted of scam reports;
- Received **108** intake forms from identity theft victims;
- Garnered over **\$110,000 in refunds, credits and adjustments** for consumers through identity theft mitigation;
- Received **43 security breach notices**, affecting nearly **600,000** South Carolinians;
- Reached over **2,000** consumers through an AARP Senior Day at the SC State Fair.

The Unit's outreach activities will continue throughout the month of October as we celebrate National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The Unit aims to raise awareness of identity theft and privacy issues through the following initiatives:

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- Senior Day at the SC State Fair in conjunction with AARP on October 15th from 9:00AM-3:00PM.
- A Webinar on Scams and Identity Theft (open to the public) on October 21st from 12:00PM-12:45PM.
- A Twitter Chat on October 22nd from 12:00PM-1:00PM.
- A Tele Town Hall in conjunction with AARP and the Federal Trade Commission on October 23rd from 6:30PM-7:30PM.
- SCDCA's annual Financial Identity Fraud and Identity Theft Protection Act Workshop (for state agencies only) set for October 30th.

Consumers who would like more information on SCDCA or the Identity Theft Unit should call 800-922-1594 or visit www.consumer.sc.gov and click on the “Identity Theft Resources” tab. Additionally, consumers who believe they are a victim of identity theft can complete and submit an Identity Theft Intake Form for assistance from the Unit.

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SCDCA aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. To file a complaint or get information on consumer issues, visit www.consumer.sc.gov or call toll-free, 1.800.922.1594.

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