**Medicare Outreach Idea of the Month**

June 2019

**Reaching Medicare Beneficiaries with Limited Income**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Many people with Medicare face challenges when it comes to paying for health care and prescription medications. The following ideas can help you reach them with information about benefit programs for people with limited income.

Promote Medicare Savings Programs (MSP), Part D Extra Help (Low-Income Subsidy or LIS) and SeniorCare by distributing this [Table Tent](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005139) to local senior centers, libraries, clinics and other community partners. The MSP/LIS/SeniorCare Brochure and Outreach Posters are also great tools for spreading the word about these benefit programs and can be found on the Medicare Outreach and Assistance Resources page of the GWAAR website. Be sure to customize these materials with your local contact information.

You can also share information about the low-income benefit programs on your agency Facebook page or website by including a link to the CMS video: [Medicare & You: Ways to Save Money](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCnIMwpZmP4). Whenever you share a link to a video, be sure to include a caption with your local contact information.

And finally, consider sharing the article below in your agency newsletter and offer to your local senior centers for use in their newsletters.

This outreach is an important step to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with limited income are informed about programs that can help and know where to access assistance when needed to maintain or improve the quality of their lives.

**To view all the GWAAR Medicare Outreach and Assistance Resources, follow the link to our webpage:**

<https://gwaar.org/medicare-outreach-and-assistance-resources>

By the GWAAR Medicare Outreach Team

**Need Help with your Medicare Costs?**

If you have Medicare and you’re facing challenges with paying for health care, you may be eligible for programs that can help you save money on medical and drug costs.

People with limited income and resources may qualify for Medicaid—a joint federal and state program that helps with medical costs.

Even if you don’t qualify for Medicaid, Medicare SavingsProgram**s** may be able to help you pay your Medicare premiums and other costs. If your income is $1,405 or less for an individual, or $1,902 for a couple, and your resources are under $7,730 for an individual or $11,600 for a couple, you may already be eligible for one of these programs.

If you qualify for Medicaid or one of the Medicare Savings Programs, you’ll automatically get Extra Helppaying for your prescription drugs. Extra Help is a Medicare program that helps people with limited income and resources pay Medicare prescription drug costs, like premiums, deductibles and coinsurance.

If you don’t automatically qualify for Extra Help, you may still be eligible if your income is $1,561 or less for an individual, or $2,113 for a couple, and your resources are under $12,890 for an individual and $25,720 for a couple. You can apply online for Extra Help with Social Security Administration at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or by calling: **1-800-772-1213**(TTY **1-800-325-0778**).

Another program that can help with your prescription drug costs is SeniorCare, Wisconsin’s prescription drug assistance program. This program is available to Wisconsin residents who are age 65 or older and are a U.S. citizen or have qualifying immigrant status. Your annual income determines your level of coverage in this program. For more information or to access an application online, go to: [www.dhs.Wisconsin.gov/seniorcare](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/seniorcare) or call: **1-800-657-2038.**

It’s important to call or fill out an application if you think you could qualify for savings, even if your income or resources are higher than the amounts listed above. These amounts change yearly, and you may be eligible for another savings program depending on your situation.

To find out if you’re eligible for savings through one of these programs or any other benefits, contact <YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION HERE>.

\* Adapted from The Medicare Blog, March 22, 2019