**Medicare Outreach Idea of the Month**

November 2019

 **Spread the Word About Medicare Related**

**Low-Income Benefit Programs**

As the holidays approach, people are beginning to prepare their shopping lists for gift giving and get-togethers. Yet for some people with Medicare, it can be a stressful time as they struggle to simply make ends meet.

Many people are not aware of the Medicare related benefit programs that can help those with limited income and assets. Consider using the article below in your December newsletter to spread the word about these programs.

You can also use outreach posters promoting Medicare Savings Programs, Medicare Part D Extra Help or Low Income Subsidy (LIS), and SeniorCare to increase awareness of these cost-saving programs. These posters can be found on the [Brochures/Posters for Outreach](https://gwaar.org/brochures-posters-for-outreach) page of the GWAAR website.

**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

**Cost-Saving Programs for People with Medicare**

The Holiday Season brings thoughts of family, friends, gifts and good cheer. But for some, it can also be a stressful time filled with worries about not only the cost of those extras this month, but the ongoing costs of their monthly bills. For people with Medicare, there may be a program that can help.

There are several Medicare related programs for beneficiaries who have limited income and assets. “Medicare Savings Programs” can help qualified individuals by paying their Part B premium for them. That alone can save them over $135 per month. Some also have their co-pays and deductibles paid, based on their income and assets. If your monthly 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.

Another program, known as “Extra Help”, assists qualified individuals with their prescription drug costs, like premiums, deductibles and copays. Enrollment in a Medicare Savings Program will automatically qualify you for Extra Help.

If you don’t automatically qualify for Extra Help, you may still be eligible if your monthly 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**).

This year, remember those who may be struggling to make ends meet. When you’re out spreading holiday cheer, take a moment to spread the word about the money-saving Medicare programs. That will surely be a gift that keeps on giving!

For more information about these benefit programs or for assistance with Medicare questions, contact <YOUR AGENCY CONTACT INFO HERE>