**Medicare Outreach Idea of the Month**

**Reaching out to the Homebound**

**March 2020**

About 6% of people with Medicare are considered homebound according to the National Institute of Health, meaning they rarely or never leave their home. There are many more who are semi-homebound who have difficulty or need help in order to leave home. For these individuals, getting out to presentations, health fairs and other activities does not happen often—or ever. It may require extra effort to make sure your message reaches these beneficiaries.

For those who participate in your home delivered meal programs, consider reaching them with flyers featuring Medicare related topics, found [here](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005863). And if your agency has a Facebook page, share important information by including regular posts about Medicare, low-income benefit programs, and preventive services, and include links to helpful resources. Some benefit specialists, especially in rural areas, have found success reaching people through local radio programs. Consider whether this may be an option in your community. Finally, placing articles in community newspapers in addition to your agency newsletter is a great way to reach those who rely on the written word for their news and information. Use the short article below or select from various Medicare topics on the [Articles](https://gwaar.org/articles) page of the GWAAR website.

What other creative ways do you reach people? If you have an innovative approach to reaching the homebound that you’d like to share, or other new ideas for conducting outreach, please contact Debbie Bisswurm at Debbie.bisswurm@gwaar.org. Sharing your ideas can help other benefit specialists, as well as people with Medicare throughout Wisconsin!

**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 Medicare Costs?**

Many people with Medicare find it difficult to afford all their monthly expenses. If you have limited income and resources, you may qualify for help paying your Medicare related costs. Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) are federally funded programs administered by each individual state. These programs help pay some, or all, of the Medicare premiums, deductibles, copayments and coinsurance for those who are eligible. There are different MSPs, each with different income and asset eligibility limits.

You may qualify for a MSP if your monthly income is at or below $1,435 ($1,939 for a married couple) *(\*2020 income limits*) and your assets are under $7,860 ($11,800 for a married couple). If you are enrolled in a MSP, you automatically qualify for Part D Extra Help, a Medicare program that helps people pay for their Medicare prescription drug coverage.

To learn more, or for assistance in determining if you are eligible, contact <YOUR LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION HERE>.