**Medicare Outreach Idea of the Month**

**Partnering with Volunteer Tax Preparers**

**February 2021**

Tax season is upon us and this is a great time to partner with your local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. Volunteer tax preparers are in a unique position to identify low-income Medicare beneficiaries who may be eligible for financial assistance with Medicare costs and this provides another opportunity to spread the word about programs that can help.

Visit the [AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Locator](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flinks.govdelivery.com%3A80%2Ftrack%3Ftype%3Dclick%26enid%3DZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTkwMTAyLjk5NjEyOTExJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE5MDEwMi45OTYxMjkxMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NDIyMDY3JmVtYWlsaWQ9ZGViYmllLmJpc3N3dXJtQGd3YWFyLm9yZyZ1c2VyaWQ9ZGViYmllLmJpc3N3dXJtQGd3YWFyLm9yZyZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm%26%26%26101%26%26%26https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aarp.org%2Ffindtaxhelp&data=02%7C01%7C%7C2f896f3a2e5e4cdef4b908d670c61a32%7C8e087664409d4c4ca6b47aa01020d6ea%7C0%7C0%7C636820393489919081&sdata=nW%2BND6faje%2BYV0c9LU4a%2FcgGZdZK2c%2Bs%2BlZev0It%2BBM%3D&reserved=0) or call 1-888-227-7669 to find the VITA contacts and locations in your area. Educate these tax preparers about the Medicare Savings Programs, Part D Extra Help, and SeniorCare. Let them know the impact these programs can have on eligible Medicare beneficiaries. Provide copies of the Eligibility Quick Check shown below, customized with your local contact information, for use as a quick reference tool. This can help them identify those who are potentially eligible and refer them to your agency.

Reaching out to local tax preparers and other community partners is a great way to spread the word about these important programs that make a significant difference in the lives of many people with Medicare.

*\*Note that the income limits reflect the 2021 federal poverty guidelines.*

**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

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**2021 Eligibility Quick Check**

Medicare Savings Programs, Extra Help and SeniorCare Level 1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SINGLE**: | **MSP** | **Extra Help** | **SeniorCare Level 1** |
| **Income\*** | $1,449 | $1,610 | $1,717 |
| **Assets** | $7,970 | $13,290 | none |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COUPLE:** | **MSP** | **Extra Help** | **SeniorCare Level 1** |
| **Income\*** | $1,959 | $2,177 | $2,322 |
| **Assets** | $11,960 | $26,520 | none |

\*Income limits based on 2021 federal poverty guidelines.

**Medicare Savings Plans:** Covers the cost of Medicare Part B premium and possibly co-pays and deductible, depending on income. Enrollment in a Medicare Savings Program will automatically qualify you for Part D Extra Help.

**Extra Help:** Lowers the premium, deductible and copays for Medicare Part D plans.

**SeniorCare:** A Wisconsin program designed to help seniors with their prescription drug costs. (Must be 65 or older to enroll.)

<YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION HERE>

