

## Preparing for Fall Open Enrollment Starts Now

Open Enrollment may seem far away, but now is the perfect time to start preparing. Taking small steps in the summer can make the busy fall season much easier. Open Enrollment runs from October 15 – December 7 each year. During this time, people with Medicare may need help reviewing their coverage and choosing a plan for next year.

### Start Scheduling Outreach

Summer is a great time to reach out to community partners and schedule fall events. Think about contacting places like senior centers, meal sites, churches, libraries, and housing communities to see if they would like a Medicare presentation or an Open Enrollment event this fall. Getting dates on the calendar now can help avoid scheduling conflicts later.

### Update your Materials

Take time to review your outreach materials. Make sure brochures, flyers and handouts are current and easy to read. Remove outdated information and replace it with the newest resources. By having your materials ready before October, it will you save time during Open Enrollment.

### Plan your Message

Think about what beneficiaries need to know before Open Enrollment begins. Simple reminders can help like:

- Review your Medicare coverage every year
- What paperwork needs to be gathered beforehand
- Watch for Medicare mail: Annual Notice of Change, Evidence of Coverage and the Medicare & You Handbook
- Beware of scams and misleading advertisements
- Know where to get free, unbiased Medicare help.

To help with your outreach check out the following material:

- [OEP Flyer: Get Ready for Medicare Open Enrollment](#)

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- [OEP Facebook Post: Get Ready for Medicare Open Enrollment](#)
- [OEP 1 page info graphics: Get Ready for Medicare Open Enrollment](#)

By preparing over the next few months, you'll be ready to help beneficiaries make informed Medicare choices this fall.

Medicare Mingle is a casual and informative meeting aimed at supporting Wisconsin SHIP counselors in their role of guiding individuals through the Medicare process.

Medicare Mingle provides a chance for SHIP Counselors to:

- Connect with your peers
- Offer and receive support
- Seek advice
- Explore outreach strategies, what's working and what's not
- Discuss various Medicare topics

### **2026 Medicare Mingle Dates**

|                     |                 |                           |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Wednesday August 26 | 10:00am-11:00am | <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> |
| Wednesday October 7 | 9:00am-10:00am  | <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> |

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