

Outreach

Please check this page for updates on the latest Outreach efforts & deadlines

*Please also visit the “Forms, Policies, & Helpful Links”
Page on this website for additional resources*

Outreach Update:

2010 Programs Benefitting Seniors & Adult Disabled Individuals

(Updated: 3/2/10)

Low-Income Subsidy (Extra Help): Assistance is available for Medicare prescription drug costs for beneficiaries with limited annual income and assets. If you qualify for the Medicare Savings Program, you automatically qualify for the Low-Income Subsidy. The Low-Income Subsidy will pay for all or most of the monthly premiums and annual deductibles and lower the prescription co-pays related to your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or Medicare Advantage Plan.

Medicare Savings Programs: The Medicare Savings Programs pay for your monthly Medicare Part B premium (\$96.40). You will then get \$96.40 more in your Social Security check each month. In order to qualify for this program certain income limits apply (single - income less than \$2091.67/mo.; married - combined income less than \$2816.67/mo.). There is no asset test for The Medicare Savings Program. If your income falls below the limit you may qualify for help paying for your Medicare coinsurance and deductibles similar to a “Medigap” policy. If you qualify for the Medicare Savings Programs you will also automatically qualify for the Low-Income Subsidy (Extra Help).

ConnPACE: ConnPACE is a state funded program that helps senior and disabled residents pay for certain prescription drugs, insulin, and insulin syringes. Participants pay a yearly \$45 enrollment fee plus up to a maximum \$16.25 co-pay for each prescription. ConnPACE allows a 30-day supply or 120 units (tablets or capsules), whichever is greater, for each prescription. If you have Medicare, you must be enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan that includes Prescription Drug coverage. ConnPACE is the secondary payer for prescriptions after these plans, with ConnPACE providing “wrap-around” coverage that includes monthly premium assistance, coverage of Medicare excluded Part D drugs (within current ConnPACE policy), and assistance with out-of-pocket costs above a \$16.25 co-pay. If you qualify for the Low-Income Subsidy (Extra Help), ConnPACE requires that you apply for the Low-Income Subsidy (Extra Help), also helping to significantly reduce your prescription co-pays.

The Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE): The CT Home Care Program for Elders helps eligible seniors (ages 65+) to remain at home with the help of home care services. To be eligible for this program, you must need assistance with such care as bathing, dressing, eating/preparing meals, taking medication, or using the toilet. The CHCPE can then offer help with these needs in addition to help with daily living activities

like cleaning, cooking and other chores.

Additionally, individuals must have limited assets (single – assets less than \$32,868; married – combined assets less than \$43,824). Beginning January 2010, there will be a 15% co pay for services provided by CHCPE. The CT Home Care Program for Elders also has an Assisted Living Program. Assisted Living provides a special combination of housing, supportive services, personalized assistance and health care. Facilities providing subsidized assisted living services include The Herbert T. Clark House in Glastonbury, The Retreat in Hartford, Luther Ridge in Middletown, and Smithfield Gardens in Seymour. If you are a resident of one of these facilities, the 15% co pay does not apply.

CT Energy Assistance/Contingency Heating Assistance Programs: Under these programs, assistance is available with your primary heat source. To qualify for this program, annual income must be limited (single – income less than \$30,485; married – combined income less than \$39,865). Additionally, assets must be limited (Homeowners - \$10,000; Renters - \$7,000). The exception to these asset limits is as follows: if you add your excess assets to your income, and your income does not then exceed the income limits, you may still qualify for these programs. The amount of assistance for which you may be eligible varies depending upon both your heat source and your actual income level.

Operation Fuel: For the 2009-2010 heating season Operation Fuel can assist you on a one-time basis for up to a maximum of \$500 with your primary heat source (single – income between \$16,246 and \$21,660; married – combined income between \$21,856 and \$29,140). If you fall below \$16,246 for a single person or \$21,856 for a married couple you may qualify for emergency assistance with a one time \$300 benefit. In order to be eligible for Operation Fuel you must apply for, receive and exhaust your benefit with the Connecticut Energy Assistance/Contingency Heating Assistance Program.

Additional Outreach Efforts

Connecticut's program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling, and Eligibility Screening (CHOICES): CHOICES provides comprehensive information regarding issues such as Medicare, Medicare Savings Programs, Medigap, prescription drug assistance benefits, Medicaid, etc.

Financial Assistance/Support Services: Community donations allow financial assistance to be available for various needs through the **Marion Celio Angel Fund**, the **Russell Schlitter Outreach Fund**, and the **Lions Fuel Assistance Fund**. Also, through on-going generous donations, **free 911-only cell phones** are available for distribution. Support services are also available for caregivers through a monthly **Caregivers Support Group** held each month.

Free Files of Life are available. Each has a magnetized strip for display on the refrigerator and wallet packets are available.

- The File of Life provides a system to record emergency personal information, medical history, and other important data which can be readily accessed by emergency responders.

The **Russell Mercier Senior Center** can assist you
with applying for all of the above mentioned programs.

Please feel free to contact us at (860) 228-1700,
Monday through Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Friday
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.