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Press Release

Area Agencies on Aging Offer Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Informational Presentations

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare will begin offering an added benefit that will cover prescriptions. Everyone on Medicare will be able to participate in the new Medicare Prescription Benefit, regardless of income. People will be able to enroll in the plan of their choice starting this fall, and "Extra Help" will be available for people with low-incomes to pay for most of the out-of-pocket expenses associated with the plans. Applications for "Extra Help" are available now through the Social Security Administration. The Alamo Area Council of Governments' Bexar and Alamo Area Agencies on Aging are currently conducting an outreach effort to inform residents of Bexar County and surrounding counties about the new Medicare Prescription Benefit (Part D).

Part of the outreach effort includes informational sessions provided by the Bexar and Alamo Area Agencies on Aging. A Train the Trainer session will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Alamo Area Council of Governments' Board Room, 8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas. The session will include information on the new Medicare Prescription Benefit and the Low Income Subsidy "Extra Help" application. If you would like to attend, please call Tina Smith at (210) 362-5217 or e-mail tsmith@aacog.com.

The AACOG Bexar and Alamo Area Agencies on Aging serve as the area Health Information Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). The mission of HICAP is to provide accurate and objective counseling, assistance, and advocacy in relation to public benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance. The program targets seniors aged 60 and older. The HICAP program is sustained in the Benefits Counseling program of the 28 Area Agencies on Aging in Texas.

The AACOG Bexar and Alamo Area Agencies on Aging are also available to give presentations to groups on the new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit. For more information or to schedule a presentation, please contact Dana Long at (210) 362-5307 or e-mail dlong@aacog.com.

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