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Subject: New & improved: BenefitsCheckUp

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## New & improved: BenefitsCheckUp®

You spoke; we listened. Our online screening tool, BenefitsCheckUp®, has been redesigned to better facilitate screening for the programs your clients need. And a new resource library lets you find basic information about thousands of programs quickly.

[Check it out](#)

*Jan. 5, 2017*

### Extra Help: Counting income and assets

You may know to count wages, 401(k)s, and mutual funds as part of an applicant's income and resources when applying for the Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS/Extra Help). But what about income tax refunds, revocable trusts, and payments for clinical trials? In response to a counselor request, we've created this handy "cheat sheet" detailing what always, never, and sometimes counts for LIS applicants' income and assets.

[Get the cheat sheet](#)

### Webinar: Advocacy priorities for seniors in early 2017

With the convening of a new Congress and Administration, many challenges and opportunities lie ahead for aging services. The first scheduled debate centers on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which includes threats to senior programs like Medicaid home and community-based services and coverage for the pre-Medicare population aged 55-64. Join NCOA's public policy and advocacy team for a webinar on Jan. 18 that looks at pending proposals and next steps.

[Register](#)

## Looking ahead: Advice for people with Medicare

The Medicare Open Enrollment Period has passed once more, but there are still important tips for people with Medicare to know about, in order to evaluate some changes and opportunities in 2017.

[Share our advice](#)

### *Participate...*

- **National Training Program Learning Series Webinar**, Jan. 12 at 1 p.m. ET—Join CMS for this webinar that discusses what it means to be a dual eligible, and how payments are coordinated between Medicare and Medicaid.

### *Did you miss these resources?*

- **A Closer Look at the Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period:** Discover how your clients who want to leave their MA plans and return to Original Medicare can do so during this annual period, which runs Jan. 1 – Feb. 14.
- **Medicare Parts A & B costs:** Learn what your clients will pay for their premiums in 2017.
- **2017 Comparison of the Medicare Parts A, B, C and D Appeal Processes:** View this handy chart from CMS outlining the timeframes and processes for appeals within Medicare.

