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Subject: Benefits Enrollment Conference materials now online!

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Find benefits conference resources

On April 18-20, the Center for Benefits Access hosted a conference to share lessons and strategies to improve benefits access for people with Medicare. All the conference materials are now available online to download and share with your colleagues.

[Access](#)

May 3, 2017

SHIP, SCSEP funding cuts loom

This week, Congress is expected to approve a final fiscal year 2017 appropriations bill that will keep the government funded through Sept. 30, but with significant cuts to two critical programs for seniors—the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The bipartisan funding package is a strong indicator of which programs will face even deeper cuts when Congress turns its attention to FY18 funding this summer.

[Read our summary](#) | [Download our funding table](#)

Get LIS/MSP fact sheets for Native populations

We've updated our fact sheets that target American Indian/Alaskan and Hawaiian Natives with information about saving money on Medicare through the Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) and Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs). Each fact sheet contains details specific to how income and resources are counted, and is available in Word format so you can tailor contact information for your state.

[Download for Alaska](#) | [Hawaii](#) | [American Indians in other states](#)

CMS reports explore disparities in Medicare

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released two reports outlining disparities in care for people enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA). The first report examines differences in rates of colorectal cancer screening, treatment for chronic conditions, and ability to access needed care by gender and race. The second looks at quality of treatment comparing both gender and racial/ethnic minority status.

[Read the gender disparities report](#) | [Read the ethnic disparities report](#)

Improper billing of QMBs info now in Spanish

People with Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) benefits should never be billed for services they receive from a Medicare provider. CMS and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau previously published three tips for consumers if they are wrongly billed for these services; that information is now available in Spanish.

Get the [3 tips in English and Spanish](#)

Did you miss this?

- **Understand the difference between SSI & SSDI:** Read our blog to get the facts on who's eligible for these benefits and how to apply.
- **Reframing Aging toolkit:** See how leading aging organizations, including NCOA, are helping reframe the public discourse and understanding about aging and older Americans.
- **Diverse elders & the federal budget:** Read how possible cuts to benefits may impact the lives of diverse seniors in this series of fact sheets from the Diverse Elders Coalition.

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