

From: NCOA Week <newsletters@ncoa.org>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 3/31/2015 1:03:52 PM
Subject: Budgeting in 3 minutes

Having trouble viewing this e-mail? [View it online.](#)

March 31, 2015

Budgeting in 3 minutes

April is Financial Literacy Month! Are the seniors you serve making the most of their money? Share our free budgeting tool on EconomicCheckUp® to help them quickly see where their money goes and how they can spend smarter.

[See how it works](#)

House passes Medicare physician reform bill

Last week, the House voted 392-37 to pass a Medicare bill (H.R. 2) that would permanently reform and avoid future cuts to physician payments. It also would make permanent the Qualifying Individual (QI) program, which pays Part B premiums for certain low-income beneficiaries, and extend for 2 years low-income outreach and enrollment funding at higher levels. About half of the \$70 billion in offsets come from increases in beneficiary out-of-pocket costs, primarily premiums for those with higher incomes (over \$133,000 for singles; \$266,000 for couples). And starting in 2020, it would prohibit beneficiaries from purchasing Medigap policies that cover the Part B deductible. NCOA has played a leadership role on the QI issue and will continue to work with the Senate to improve the bill for low-income beneficiaries before the next vote in mid-April.

[Read our letter to the House](#)

Positive health outcomes for CDSMP participants

National and state translational research studies have shown that participating in a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) workshop can positively influence the Institute of Healthcare Improvement's "Triple Aim" of better health, better care, and lower cost. Read our summary of the latest research about the health benefits of CDSMP.

[Explore the findings](#) | [Find a workshop near you](#)

Updated for 2015: Benefits 101 fact sheets

Need a basic grasp of the core benefits programs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries? Our Center for Benefits Access has updated our Benefits 101 fact

sheets. Each provides an overview of the benefit, how eligibility is determined, how the benefit works with other programs, and how to help seniors apply.

Learn Benefits 101

Coming up ...

- **WHCOA Webcast** : Watch a live webcast of the next White House Conference on Aging Regional Forum in Seattle. *April 2 @ 8:30 a.m. MT*
- **Strong Brains, Sharp Minds – Part I** : Explore the fundamentals of the aging brain through the latest research, as well as risk factors and self-care opportunities. *April 9 @ 1:30 p.m. ET*
- **Strong Brains, Sharp Minds – Part II** : Discover how to offer practical, low-cost brain health programs for seniors and caregivers in your community. *May 7 @ 1:30 p.m. ET*

Did you miss this?

- **Personal Help with Medicare** : Check out the updated My Medicare Matters® website for friendly guides, simple graphics, a blog, and more.
- **2015 Older Americans Month** : Download posters, sample social media, event ideas, and templates for your May event.

© 2015 **National Council on Aging**, Inc. All rights reserved. Unauthorized use prohibited. May not be reproduced in whole or in part by persons, organizations, or corporations other than NCOA, its affiliates, divisions, and units without the prior written permission of an authorized officer of NCOA. For permission, please contact newsletters@ncoa.org.

[Manage Email Preferences](#)

NCOA | 251 18th Street South | Suite 500 | Arlington, VA 22202