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**Subject:** Everything you need for Medicare Open Enrollment

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## Everything you need for Open Enrollment

Medicare's annual Open Enrollment Period for Parts C & D starts in 10 days! We've created a page for all the tools you may need, from cost charts to counselor checklists to fact sheets and more.

**Explore**

*Oct. 5, 2016*

## **Learn the real costs of aging with the 2016 Elder Index**

More than half of American adults aged 65+ who live alone, and one-quarter of couples, cannot pay for basic necessities, according to new data from the 2016 Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index (Elder Index). Developed by the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston with Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), and maintained in partnership with NCOA, the Elder Index is a measure of the income that older adults need to meet their basic needs and age in place with dignity. It is specific to household size, location, housing, and health status.

[Get highlights from the 2016 Index](#) | [Search the Elder Index database](#)

## **Discover promising practices in senior SNAP enrollment**

With support from the Walmart Foundation, NCOA has provided grants of over \$2 million to community organizations to boost older adults' enrollment into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Our newest brief highlights promising practices in outreach, application assistance, and advocacy that four of these grantees used to increase enrollment in their communities.

[Download the brief](#) | [Access SNAP outreach materials](#)

## **Social Security publishes final rules re: mental disorders**

The Social Security Administration has published final rules that revise the medical criteria for evaluating disability claims involving mental disorders. The rules go into effect on Jan. 17, 2017, and reflect input from thousands of consumers, mental health practitioners, and disability rights advocates.

[Read the new rules](#)

### ***Register...***

- [What's Happening with Medicare in 2017](#), Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. ET—Join us for this webinar exploring what changes are happening in Medicare in 2017, including an overview of the 2017 plan landscape and what

- your clients will pay for coverage.

### ***Check out these resources...***

- **Medicare Coverage of Skilled Nursing & Skilled Therapy Services:** Read this new fact sheet from the Long Term Care Community Coalition on the “improvement standard” for therapy services in a nursing facility.
- **5 Things to Know about Medicare’s Hospice Benefit:** Find this consumer tip sheet in English and Spanish, developed for us by the Medicare Rights Center.
- **Medicare plan landscape, state-by-state:** See how many Medicare Advantage and Part D plans will be offered in your state, and average costs, in this compendium from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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