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Subject: Part D costs in 2016 | Apply for BEC grants

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## Part D costs in 2016

How much will your clients pay for Medicare drug coverage in the coming year? Back by popular demand is our donut hole illustration and 2016 Part D cost chart that explains it all!

[Download](#)

*Sept. 2, 2015*

## Apply to become a Benefits Enrollment Center!

The Center for Benefits Access has released a new Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting organizations to become Benefits Enrollment Centers (BECs). BECs help low-income people with Medicare apply for and enroll in a set of core benefits that improve their economic security. Up to 8 grants of \$100,000 each will be awarded to new BECs in 2016.

[Learn how to apply](#)

## QMB beneficiaries and balanced billing

Medicare beneficiaries who are also Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB enrollees) cannot be billed for Medicare cost-sharing by physicians, suppliers, or other providers.

Despite this prohibition, a recent report from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) found that providers continue to

improperly balance-bill QMB enrollees. If you have clients who are being balance-billed, you should refer the providers to this CMS article, which explains the prohibition against balance-billing QMB enrollees and how to

file a claim with the state Medicaid agency.

[Get the facts](#)

## No Social Security COLA causes Medicare flap

The *2015 Social Security Trustees Report* predicts that Social Security recipients will not get a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in 2016. Without a COLA, Medicare Part B premiums cannot increase for most beneficiaries, so a minority has to bear the full burden of rising costs. A new issue brief from the Center for Retirement Research analyzes what this means for older adults and their medical spending.

[Read the brief](#)

## New opportunity to save on prescriptions

NCOA is partnering with FamilyWize to make people aware of another option for individuals who need help paying for their medications, especially those who are not yet on Medicare. The FamilyWize savings card can help people save money on prescriptions at participating pharmacies.

The card does not provide savings for drugs covered under Part D plans, but may deliver savings if a person needs to purchase drugs that do not appear on their Part D plan formulary.

[Get more information](#)

## It's Hunger Action Month!

September is Hunger Action Month, and a perfect time to connect low-income seniors with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Read our handbook to learn about best practices in senior SNAP outreach, and find sample social media messages to spread the word about how to #getSNAP.

[Download the handbook](#) | [Spread the word](#)

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

- [National Medicare Education Training Web Meeting](#), Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. ET—The focus of this meeting is to enlist national and local organizations to support outreach and education around the Medicare program.
- [Using the New Poverty Data](#), Sept. 9 at 2 p.m. ET—Attend this webinar from the Coalition for Human Needs to discover how to use the Census Bureau's new data on poverty, income, and health insurance

- (to be released Sept. 16).

### ***Don't miss this...***

- **Medicare Advantage Plan Types:** Get our updated fact sheet outlining the different types of MA plans available to your clients.
- **Medigap Questions & Answers:** Read the follow-up Q&A from our July webinar, *Medigap: What You Need to Know*.
- **Re-enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplaces:** Read the guidance from CMS about how individuals can continue to receive Marketplace coverage.

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