HICAP Monthly Newsletter

December Issue 2023

HICAP is here to help Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm
Give us a call at (559) 224-9117 or 1-800-434-0222

Medicare Annual Open Enrollment comes to a close!

Happy Holidays from your local HICAP
400 Beneficiaries Assisted!

The Fresno-Madera HICAP was able to assist approximately 400 Medicare Beneficiaries during Medicare's Annual Open Enrollment!

Thank you, HICAP staff and volunteers for all your efforts. And thank you to our community members for choosing your local HICAP for your Medicare services.

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment & General Enrollment Periods are coming up!

**General Enrollment Period**

January 1st - March 31st

3-month period each year during which you can enroll/join:

- Part A
- Part B

Coverage begins the first day of the following month.
Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

What is the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period?

This enrollment period begins on January 1st and ends on March 31st.

The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period allows those already on Medicare Advantage to make a one-time change to their coverage.

What Can You NOT Do During the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period?

- Enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan for the first time.
- Enroll in an Original Medicare for the first time.
- Enroll in a Medicare Supplement plan without underwriting health questions.

When do Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period Changes Become Active?

If you make a change to your plan during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period, your new coverage will go into effect on the first day of the month following your enrollment.

HICAP is available Monday - Friday, 8AM - 5PM to assist you with all things Medicare (559) 224-9117 or 1-800-434-0222

HICAP Social Media

HICAP would like to encourage our beneficiaries to follow us on social media.

Upcoming January Events

See details on our calendar at www.HICAP.org

Coverage begins the first day of the following month.

Have questions? Let us know!
See where HICAP will be next month:

**Medi-Cal Application Assistance Day**
When: Wednesday, 01/10/24
Time: All Day
(Appointment Required)

**Fresno City College Spring Volunteer Fair**
When: Tuesday, 01/23/24
Time: 9AM - 12PM

If you are interested in scheduling a HICAP presentation please contact us at (559) 224-9117.

HICAP would like to encourage our beneficiaries to follow us on social media.

**HICAP Community Outreach Coordinator, Sujey Martinez** creates our wonderful HICAP posts. Below are HICAP’s October posts in case you missed them.......

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**URGENT REMINDER:**

**MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE**

**ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS DECEMBER 7**

**LOOK OUT FOR THESE ENROLLMENT PERIODS NEXT YEAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OPEN ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1 – March 31 each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switch Medicare Advantage Plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop your Medicare Advantage Plan and return to Original Medicare with a Part D plan</td>
<td>Join: Part A Part B</td>
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Ask a HICAP Registered Counselor about your eligibility for additional enrollment periods.
Be sure to keep up with us on all our platforms!
Important HICAP Announcement!

Our website has launched!

Please visit our webpage at the Valley Caregiver Resource Center website for more information about your Fresno and Madera HICAP. Please scan the QR code for quick access, or find us at valleycrc.org.

Medi-Cal Application Assistance Day
Join us for one of our favorite events!

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month, Fresno County Department of Social Services joins us at Valley Caregiver Resource Center to assist Seniors and Caregivers about all things Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and CalWorks.

Medi-Cal Application Assistance Day is by appointment only. Please call HICAP at (559) 224-9117 to schedule your appointment. Spaces are limited, call us today!

Senior Medicare Patrol

Your HICAP counselors serve as SMP liaisons, please contact HICAP at (559) 224-9117 to report Medicare Fraud.

The Annual Shredding Event is back! Mark your calendars for this free event. Saturday, March 9th, 2024 10AM - 12PM
HICAP is a program of the Valley Caregiver Resource Center and we would like to invite you to participate in the following fundraising opportunity:

**DRIVE THRU SHREDDING EVENT FOR SENIORS & CAREGIVERS**

**Protect Yourself & Loved Ones From Medicare Fraud & Identity Theft**

Together Senior Medicare Patrol and Valley Caregiver Resource Center want to help protect you! Bring documents with personal identifiable information—such as old bank statements, bills, old tax returns, and outdated Medicare documents—to be safely shredded.

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT!**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024**

10 AM – 12 PM

**Location:**
Valley Caregiver Resource Center Parking Lot
5363 N. Fresno St. Fresno 93710
For more information, please contact your local SMP at (559) 224-9117

We ask for all participants remain in your car. Staff members will unload your box for you.

A mobile shred truck will immediately shred your personal documents:
- One banker box per participant (cardboard boxes and/or containers cannot be left)
- No cardboard, binder clips, binders, or electronic media will be accepted
- Residential shredding only (no commercial shredding allowed)
- Truck will be available for 2 hours or until full

HICAP is a program of the Valley Caregiver Resource Center and we would like to invite you to participate in the following fundraising opportunity:
We welcome interested parties to contact Executive Director, Michelle DiBuduo, to learn more about how you can volunteer, donate, or sponsor one of our upcoming events.

Executive Director: Michelle DiBuduo  
Phone: (559) 224-9154  
Email: mdibuduo@valleycrc.org

We are in need of auction items and would greatly appreciate your support!
We are always here to help and share our services!

Best Wishes, from the Fresno/Madera HICAP Team
Erica, Laura, Jean, Sujey, Jessenia, Gyan, Wayne C., Linda, and Debra

For program updates and more information, please visit our website:
https://valleycrc.org/hicap-program/

Contact Information: HICAP Program Manager, Erica Sanchez
Phone: (559) 224-9117 or (800) 434-0222
Email: esanchez@valleycrc.org
Address: 5363 N. Fresno St. Fresno, CA. 93710

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Supported by:

California Department of Aging

State Health Insurance Assistance Program

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