

# HICAP

FRESNO/MADERA (PSA-14)

## Virtual Updates!

## Greetings!

We have some insightful updates and resources for Medicare Beneficiaries and their families. We cannot stress enough that our program continues to stay open for phone and virtual appointments to better serve our community during these unprecedented times. To call for our free one-on-one Medicare counseling, please contact our office at (559) 224-9117.

We are also offering an "Introductory and Overview on Medicare" presentation for organizations or groups. For more details and information, please contact our Program Manager, Jennifer Webb at (559) 224-9117 ext. 301.

## Staff Updates

Please join us in welcoming Noemi Flores-Sotelo to the HICAP team. Noemi will serve as our HICAP Outreach Coordinator and Bilingual Counselor. Noemi brings with her years of outreach and community service experience and we are excited to have her!! If you would like to speak with Noemi and schedule a future HICAP presentation you may contact her directly at (559) 224-9117 ext. 306 or email: [nflores@valleycrc.org](mailto:nflores@valleycrc.org)

California Health Advocates (CHA) welcomed Program Manager, Jennifer Webb to their Board of Directors this month. California Health Advocates provides quality Medicare and related health care coverage information, education, and policy advocacy at the state level. Jennifer will begin her 3 year term in July 2021.

## Fundraising Event

HICAP team members supported the Valley Caregiver Resource Center's Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament at Dragonfly Golf Club on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> with securing community sponsorships and auction items, running both the "Black Jack" and "Take the Pros" holes, and lending their assistance with set-up/clean-up. Our amazing team members greeted all the golfers with cold drinks and smiles. If you were unable to attend this annual event we welcome you to join next year. For more information to participate with any of our fundraising events at VCRC you may contact Rob Chapa directly at (559)224-9154 or email: [rchapa@valleycrc.or](mailto:rchapa@valleycrc.or)



Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Robinson (left) and Long Term Care Counselor, Jean Kendrick (Right)

## **Volunteer Program**

This month all HICAP staff and volunteers were invited to attend a Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) training webinar. This webinar will focus on **Protecting Dual Eligibles From Improper Billing**.

HICAP is moving along with training our 3 new volunteers and they will begin their shadowing of HICAP staff in June. This is always an exciting time for volunteers to see everything they have been reading about put into practice. We are thankful for all of our volunteers and their commitment to the HICAP mission.

If you are interested in volunteering you may contact our HICAP Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Robinson directly at (559) 224-9117 ext. 304 or email: [lrobinson@valleycrc.org](mailto:lrobinson@valleycrc.org)

## **HICAP Innovation**

HICAP continues to seek innovative ways to communicate, educate, and advocate for Medicare Beneficiaries

### **Next time, get your “Medicare & You” handbook electronically!**

Perhaps you got your paper copy of the 2021 “Medicare & You” handbook in the mail last fall, as you did the year before that. And the year before that. Maybe it’s time to make that your last paper copy. When you sign up for the e-version of the “Medicare & You” handbook, you’ll get information faster, while saving tax dollars and helping the environment. The online eHandbook has all the same information as your trusted paper copy of the “Medicare & You” handbook—plus it’s searchable, letting you find the information you need quickly and easily.

Ready to sign up for the e-version of the “Medicare & You” handbook for next fall? Follow these 2 simple steps at [Medicare.gov/gopaperless](https://www.medicare.gov/gopaperless):

1. Enter your Medicare information.
2. Confirm that you no longer want your paper copy of the “Medicare & You” handbook and only want the electronic version.

Also, you have the right to get the “Medicare & You” handbook (and other Medicare information) for free in an accessible format, like Braille, large print, data/audio files, relay services and TTY communications. For more information, visit [Medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscriminationnotice](https://www.medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscriminationnotice), or call 1-800-MEDICARE. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

## **Senior Medicare Patrol**



Relentless robocalls, are, at best, telemarketing and at worst are pitches from criminals who want to steal your cash or your identity. The pandemic caused a drop in robocalls but they're now exploding. Take these [steps from AARP](#) to reduce robocalls.

## **Medicare Information: Do you have employer coverage?**

It's important to understand how your current coverage works with Medicare. If you have questions about your current insurance, the best source of information is your benefits administrator, insurer, or plan provider.

### **I have employer coverage and:**

#### **I'm turning 65**

If you aren't getting benefits from Social Security (or the RRB) at least 4 months before you turn 65, you'll need to sign up with Social Security to get Parts A and B. However, depending on the size of the employer, you may be able to delay Parts A and B without having to pay a penalty if you enroll later. [Learn more about whether you should get Parts A and B.](#)

#### **I'm over 65**

In most cases, you don't need to do anything until you (or your spouse) retire or you lose the employer coverage. If you didn't enroll [when you were first eligible](#), the size of the employer determines whether you have to pay a penalty if you enroll later. [Learn more about whether you should get Parts A and B and what happens when your employment or coverage ends.](#)

#### **I'm under 65 and have a disability**

In most cases, you don't need to do anything until you (or your spouse) retire or you lose the employer coverage. If you didn't enroll [when you were first eligible](#), the size of the employer determines whether you have to pay a penalty if you enroll later. [Learn more about whether you should get Parts A and B and what happens when your employment or coverage ends.](#)

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Resources for Fresno & Madera Counties**

For all the latest and up to date information regarding COVID vaccinations please visit the below resources:

Fresno County vaccine schedule:

<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument?id=51485>

To inquire about Fresno County vaccines:

<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information>

Fresno County vaccination sites:

<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=52599>

[Fresno County COVID-19 Vaccination Sites](#)

Fresno County COVID-19 Vaccination Sites Aria Health Centers - Riverdale 3554 W. Mt. Whitney Ave. Riverdale 93656 (559) 867-4000 Valley Health Team - San Joaquin 21890 W. Colorado Ave. San Joaquin 93660 (559) 693-2462

[www.co.fresno.ca.us](http://www.co.fresno.ca.us)

To inquire about Madera County vaccines:

<https://www.maderacounty.com/government/public-health/covid-19/covid-vaccination>

Madera County detailed information and frequently asked questions:

<https://www.maderacounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument?id=23754>

### [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions January 5, 2021 • Dialysis centers • Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non -continuous nursing supervision and supportive care • Home health care and in-home supportive services • Community health workers, including promotors • Public health field staff • Primary Care clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers.

[www.maderacounty.com](http://www.maderacounty.com)

**For program updates and more information, please visit our website:**

<https://valleycrc.org/hicap-program/>

### [HICAP Program - Valley Caregiver Resources Center](#)

Contact Information. Jennifer Webb Program Manager, HICAP Phone: (559) 224-9117 or (800) 434-0222 Email: [jwebb@valleycrc.org](mailto:jwebb@valleycrc.org) HICAP is a member of the National State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) network.

[valleycrc.org](http://valleycrc.org)

**We are always here to help and share our services!**

**Best Wishes, from the**

**Fresno/Madera HICAP Team** □

Alicia, Jean, and Jennifer, Noemi,

The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) is a Program of The Valley Caregiver Resource Center



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