



For Immediate Release

Contact:
Ronda Kramer
530-898-6067
rjkramer@csuchico.edu

July 30, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
On-Line *Welcome to Medicare* Workshops Announced**

PASSAGES Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) will conduct its **on-line *Welcome to Medicare*** Workshop series in two parts. The first part will address the basics of Medicare Part A, B, Medigaps, and Part D, including enrollment deadlines. The second part will focus on Medicare Advantage plans (Part C), and programs to reduce medical and food costs, along with current scam alerts. On-line workshops will be from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM via ZOOM on the following dates:

- Part 1: Thursday, August 13 or September 3
- Part 2: Tuesday, August 18 or September 8

On-line registration is required by going to:

- Part 1: <https://w2mpart1.eventbrite.com>
- Part 2: <https://w2mpart2.eventbrite.com>

As people get closer to Medicare eligibility, there are several things to consider. In light of the fact that Medicare's coverage is much like employer group coverage it's important to know what questions to ask:

- How will my retiree plan work with Medicare?
- Can I delay enrolling into Medicare and not be penalized?
- Do I need a drug plan?
- Are there programs available to lower my Medicare health and prescription costs?

The free workshops are designed for "Boomers" and others who will be new to Medicare this year and want to understand how their Medicare benefits work. Family members or caregivers are also welcomed to participate. People who are new to Medicare will be deluged with information from different insurance companies marketing their products. Ronda Kramer, Program Director for Passages HICAP, warns that signing up with the wrong plan, or not doing anything may cost new Medicare recipients thousands of dollars, and they may not be able to make changes if enrollment deadlines are missed.

State registered counselors are also available for telephonic counseling Monday-Friday 9 am - 4 pm. Callers can leave a message at 800-434-0222 or 530-898-6716 with their specific questions, telephone number and home ZIP code. A return call will be made within 2 business days.

For more information, call HICAP at PASSAGES at 1-800-434-0222. HICAP does not sell or endorse any insurance products. PASSAGES, a service of California State University, Chico, supports the lives of adults in the communities it serves. For more information about PASSAGES services go to www.passagescenter.org.