



For Immediate Release

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
On-Line *Welcome to Medicare* Workshop Announced

PASSAGES Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) will conduct its first **on-line *Welcome to Medicare*** Workshop on Thursday, July 9, 10 am-noon. On-line registration is required by going to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-medicare-tickets-105044665422>. Individuals will require the use of a computer to participate in this event.

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?

This free workshop is 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.

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