



Center for

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UNDER 65 PROJECT

Reaching Younger Medicare Beneficiaries

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Under Age 65 Project

An innovative, model project to assist State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) and Senior Medicare Patrol Programs (SMPs) to reach and serve Medicare Beneficiaries under 65 years old.

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Project Goal

To help SHIPs and SMPs learn about the particular needs of Medicare's younger beneficiaries and to increase the resources available for SHIPs and SMPs to communicate with and support Medicare beneficiaries under 65.

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Project Partners

- Partner organizations include: Justice in Aging, American Association of People with Disabilities, Gleason Initiative Foundation, Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, CHOICES (Connecticut's SHIP/SMP), Social Security Administration, and CMS.
- 17-month project, has national reach but will test different approaches in Connecticut, California, and Louisiana.



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Medicare Beneficiaries Under 65

- Comprise 16.5% of total Medicare beneficiaries.
- Often have lower incomes, require more health care, and find it more difficult to pay for and obtain care compared to Medicare beneficiaries over 65 years of age.
- Also, more likely to have cognitive impairments, report themselves in poor health, and have limitations in one or more activities of daily living.



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SHIP/SMP 2016 Survey Results

- Responses from 42 states/territories
- Especially requested more resources to assist with:
 - Individuals with mental health impairments
 - Individuals who are incarcerated
- Stated the most effective ways to learn are in-person and webinars



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SHIP/SMP 2016 Survey Results: A Need For More Information

80-90% stated more information is needed about coverage, eligibility, enrollment, and transitions to Medicare from ACA, Medicaid, and private insurance.



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SHIP/SMP 2016 Survey Results: Format and Location of Materials

- Format – Video trainings and online, printable materials scored highest
- Location – SHIP and SMP libraries



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Webinars Presented & Available In SHIP/SMP Libraries

- An Overview of Eligibility, Enrollment and Payment for People Under Age 65 (January 2016)
- Medicare for Dually Eligible and Low Income People Under Age 65 (March 2016)
- Medicare Part D for People Under Age 65 (May 2016)
- Medicare Home Health Coverage for People with Chronic Conditions (Including a Jimmo update (July 2016))



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Future Webinars

- Transitions Onto (and Off Of) Medicare for People Under Age 65 (September 15, 2016)
- Choosing Traditional Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan: Pros and Cons for People Under Age 65 (October 20, 2016)
- Best Practices and Tips for Education, Resources, and Community Collaboration to Assist People Under Age 65 (January 19, 2017)



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Next Steps:

- Post the Introductory Webinar in Spanish
- Implement a 2nd Survey: For people living with disabilities and their networks
- Respond to needs identified in 2nd survey results



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Updates on Target State Projects

- California
- Connecticut
- Louisiana



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