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## **Now Available: Information Resources on Medicare Open Enrollment**

Now is the time for Medicare beneficiaries to review their current Medicare choices and compare them to coverage that is available for next year.

The Medicare Open Enrollment period (October 15-December 7, 2013) is the one time of year when Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to their coverage. Beneficiaries may switch to a new plan that provides higher quality, lower cost, or better coverage for one's specific health care needs. If a beneficiary is satisfied with his/her current Medicare plans, he/she does not have to do anything.

Education and promotional materials from the Medicare Open Enrollment Center are now available [here](#).

As a reminder, FAQs about Medicare beneficiaries and the Health Insurance Marketplace are available [here](#).

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## **Affordable Care Act/Health Insurance Marketplace**

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### **Individual Help with Marketplace Applications**

There's a new way to get help with applications for coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Visit [LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov](http://LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov) to find help in one's area. Individuals can search by city and state or by ZIP code to see a list of local organizations with contact information, office hours, and types of help offered, such as non-English language support, Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program, and Small Business Health Options Program. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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### **Calculate Costs and Savings in the Health Insurance Marketplace**

Although individuals cannot fill out a Health Insurance Marketplace application until October 1, there are steps individuals can take now that will help them estimate costs and savings.

- Use the Kaiser Family Foundation Calculator to [get a rough estimate of costs and savings](#).
- Find out if one qualifies for [lower costs on monthly premiums](#).
- Find out if one qualifies for [lower out-of-pocket costs](#).
- Learn more about low-cost coverage through [Medicaid](#) or the [Children's Health Insurance Program](#).

If you have questions about getting covered in the Health Insurance Marketplace, send an [email](#) or telephone 1-800-318-2596, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.

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### **Obama Administration Announces a Coordinated Effort to Protect Consumers by Preventing and Detecting Potential Fraud in the Health Insurance Marketplace**

Last week, Attorney General Eric Holder, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, and Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman Edith Ramirez met at the White House to kick off a comprehensive [interagency initiative](#) to prevent, protect against, and, where necessary, prosecute consumer fraud and privacy violations in the Health Insurance Marketplace.

A goal of the initiative is to empower consumers with information about potential fraud and privacy threats. [Protect Yourself from Fraud in the Health Insurance Marketplace](#) and [Tips for Assistants to Help Consumers Navigate the Marketplace](#) are two new resources that were presented at the kick-off. [Read more](#).

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### **Health Insurance for Less Than \$100 per Month: New Report Shows Marketplace Will Offer Low Rates for Nearly 6 in 10 Uninsured Americans**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently released a [report](#) showing that 56 percent of people without health insurance today may be eligible for coverage through the [Health Insurance Marketplace](#) for under \$100 per month. The report also shows that if all 50 states took advantage of new options to expand Medicaid coverage, nearly 8 out of every 10 people (78 percent) who currently do not have insurance could be paying less than \$100 a month for coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

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## Webinars & Conference Calls

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### **Webinar Series: Strengthening Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnerships to Promote Community Living**

The Administration for Community Living launched the [Strengthening Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnerships to Promote Community Living](#) program to demonstrate the value that inclusive processes can bring to transportation efforts. You are invited to participate in a [two-part webinar series](#) that will present on-going efforts of the National Knowledge Sharing Network's Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Catalysts project to advance the program's mission.

**First Webinar:** Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. ET

“Effective, Practical Applications for Social Media in Inclusive Transit Planning.” [Register](#) here.

**Second Webinar:** Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. ET

“What It Really Means to Be Inclusive.” [Register](#) here.

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### **Roundtable: Health Policy Forum**

**Thursday, September 26, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET (Webcast from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ET): Advanced Old Age in America: What Can We Count On?**

The [Altarum Institute](#) invites you to the roundtable, “Advanced Old Age in America: What Can We Count On?”

U.S. Senators Mark Warner(D-VA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) will share their thoughts on health care reform and the growing number of Americans living with frailty in their last years. Also contributing to the discussion will be experts in the field of aging and health care from academia, foundations, policy institutes, advocacy groups, and state and federal governments. They will offer strategies for moving forward on this important health care matter.

[Register.](#)

For participants attending in person, the roundtable will be held at the Pew Charitable Trusts Conference Center, 901 “E” Street, NW Washington, DC. (202-552-2000)

For individuals registering to join via webcast, an email confirmation will be sent with further instructions.

For additional information, please contact Marijka Lischak, [maria.lischak@altarum.org](mailto:maria.lischak@altarum.org); 703-575-1200.

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## **National I&R Support Center Technical Assistance Conference Call**

***Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. ET:***

***“Veterans Directed Home and Community Based Services and Beyond”***

Sponsored by the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, this call will review how innovative programs can be used to help veterans with disabilities transition back into the “civilian world” with services and supports.

Call Information: Phone Number: 888-346-3659; Passcode: 382574

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## **Tools & Information**

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### **FEMA: Preparing the Whole Community for Disasters**

Disasters affect people who have diverse needs. The challenges that arise in the aftermath of a disaster can be formidable for everyone involved, but maintaining independence and support systems is especially challenging for people with disabilities and access or functional needs

Effective disaster preparedness requires a tailored emergency plan, not "one size fits all." Individuals with disabilities may have disaster-related needs that go beyond the basics: they may need solutions to help them communicate, access transportation, supervision, medical care, or other supports that enable independence. [Click here](#) to learn about developing a disaster plan for someone with a disability, access or functional needs.

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### **New National Resource Center on Justice and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

With a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, The Arc will develop a National Center on Justice and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

(I/DD). This will be the first national effort of its kind to bring together victim and offender issues involving people with I/DD.

The goal of this project is to create a national clearinghouse for research, information, evaluation, training, and technical assistance for justice and disability professionals and other advocates. The Center will help build capacity to better identify and meet the needs of people with I/DD, whose disability often goes unrecognized, and who are overrepresented in the nation's criminal justice system— as victims and offenders. [Read more.](#)

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## **September Observances**

### **National Hispanic Heritage Month**

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. We celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The Administration for Community Living joins President Obama in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and honoring the achievements of Hispanics in America. Read the [President's proclamation](#). [Click here](#) to learn more about Hispanic Heritage Month.

*Month:*

### **National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month**

[Presidential Proclamation](#)

[Statement by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius](#)

### **National Preparedness Month**

[Presidential Proclamation](#)

[Statement by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius](#)

[Blog by ACL Administrator Kathy Greenlee](#)

### **National Senior Center Month**

Theme: "Senior Centers: Experts at Living Well"

Click here for [resource materials](#)

*Week:*

### **Active Aging Week (9/22-9/28)**

*Day:*

## September 26: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rehabilitation Act

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