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1290 Broadway • Suite 100 • Denver, Colorado 80203-5606
main: 303-455-1000 • fax: 303-480-6790 • email: drcog@drcog.org • web: www.drcog.org

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Contact:

Winna MacLaren
Public relations coordinator
Desk: 303-480-6743
Email: wmaclaren@drcog.org

Denver Regional Council of Governments offers free help to Medicare beneficiaries

Sept. 5, 2017 (Denver) – The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Area Agency on Aging is now the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provider for Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties. Medicare beneficiaries who are residents of these areas are eligible for free one-on-one counseling for Medicare information, advocacy and enrollment assistance.

“Douglas County’s 60-plus and 75-plus populations are projected to grow 160 and 370 percent, respectively, by 2040. Jefferson and Arapahoe counties are not far behind,” said Jayla Sanchez Warren, director of DRCOG’s Area Agency on Aging. “Our purpose is to help people age better and advocate for older adults and their needs. Being the SHIP provider for these areas where we already serve older adult populations means we can be that much more effective in our mission.”

Effective immediately, DRCOG staff is ready to provide assistance. Medicare’s open enrollment period runs from Oct. 15-Dec. 7, when beneficiaries can make changes to their Medicare health and prescription drug plans. SHIP program managers encourage beneficiaries to proactively seek assistance in researching Medicare plans, especially if their medications or health conditions have changed. Prior to calling for Medicare counseling, SHIP counselors request that beneficiaries ask their pharmacy for a list of their medications.

To speak with a SHIP counselor for one-on-one assistance with benefits, coverage rules, forms, appeal rights and procedures, or for help enrolling in low-income supplemental programs to Medicare, call 303-480-6700 or visit drcog.org/SHIP for more information.

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The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to establish guidelines, set policy and allocate funding in the areas of transportation and personal mobility; growth and development; and aging and disability resources.