



PRESS RELEASE

“Extra Help” and Low Income Subsidy Available for Prescription Drug Assistance

Area Agency on Aging Offers Benefits Counseling Service for Medicare Recipients

Kilgore, TX, May 10, 2010: The East Texas Area Agency on Aging (AAA), administered by ETCOG, has trained counselors to help seniors with enrolling in Extra Help and choosing a Medicare prescription drug plan. The program, paid for by Social Security and the State of Texas, offers seniors the opportunity to get lower co-pay, help paying their Part B or Part D medical premium, and may prevent a coverage gap for the individual and save deductible costs.

Trained counselors are available by appointment with the AAA to help complete an Extra Help / Low Income Subsidy application. The counselors are available to help individuals get answers to questions, review Medicare plans and see if the individual is eligible to qualify for extra help.

The monthly income limit for an individual to qualify is \$1,353 or \$1,821 for a couple. Resources limit, including property, stocks, bonds, savings, is \$12,510 for an individual and \$25,010 for a couple. A homestead, one vehicle, personal belongings are not included in resources. Our counselors suggest seniors call even if their income is higher than these limits because only certain income sources are counted.

For an appointment or for more information, contact Dovie Lawrence at 903.984.8641 x213 or Toll Free at 1.800.442.8845. Seniors will need to have their red, white and blue Medicare card and a list of their prescriptions for appointments.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.