



# PRESS RELEASE

## Medicare Part C & D Open Enrollment Has Begun

*November 15th - December 31st*

**Kilgore, TX, November 22, 2011:** On November 15, Open Enrollment began for Medicare beneficiaries to decide if a Medicare Part C or D plan is right for them, and if so, which plan they should choose. The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) Area Agency on Aging (AAA) division will be conducting regional presentations and providing one-on-one assistance for Medicare Part C & D Open Enrollment.

Presentations will provide information on Medicare Part D coverage, plan comparisons; low income assistance programs, extra help with prescription costs and provide enrollment assistance. Presentation times and locations are pending in all of our 14-county area. Details are available by calling: 1.800.442.8845 or 903.984.8641 x269 or 213.

Attendees of a benefits counseling presentation should bring a list of their medications and dosage requirements. The Area Agency on Aging suggests Medicare beneficiaries seek the following information before enrolling in a new plan or making changes to their existing prescription plan:

1. Does your pharmacy actively participate with the plan you are considering?
2. Does your physician actively participate with the plan you are considering?
3. Does your hospital or place of treatment actively participate with the plan you are considering?

Open Enrollment ends December 31. You must have Medicare Part A and/or B to be entitled to Part D or both Part A and B for a Part C Advantage plan. Individuals, who cannot attend a presentation, can call the AAA toll free number for assistance. For more information, contact the AAA at 1.800.442.8845.

### **About Area Agency on Aging**

The Area Agency on Aging of East Texas is designated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services to coordinate services for persons in East Texas who are 60 or older, with particular attention to low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas. Special programs include benefits counseling/legal assistance; information, referral, and assistance; nutrition programs including Meals on Wheels; care coordination; caregiver support; home repair and modification; emergency response system; transportation; the Ombudsman program in which information is provided to nursing home residents and their families about residents' rights. The Area Agency on Aging is a program of ETCOG serving its 14 county region.

### **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.