SMP NEWS

The Census is about to begin! *See back*

VOLUNTEERS

Making a difference in our communities. Hear from SMP Volunteer Barb McBurnie *See back*

IMPORTANT DATES:

Mid-March: Homes across the country will receive invitations to complete the 2020 Census. You should respond in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020.

May - July: Census takers visit homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

Greetings!

As SMP volunteers, you can spread the word, that right now, the U.S. Census will be mailing out post cards to remind people about the Census and that they can complete the Census on-line. The next mailing will be the actual paper survey that can be completed and mailed back. REMIND people that no one will come to your door if you have already completed your survey! Our newsletter this month focuses on important dates, why the Census is important & the scams to be aware of. Knowing how the 2020 Census process works will help you spot and report scams.

Your role as a SMP volunteer is very important, you are the eyes and ears of the community – so spread the word, so that others do not get taken advantage of! Thanks for all of your help!

Beth Nelson, Director

NYS Senior Medicare Patrol

New York State SMP
Empowering Seniors To Prevent Healthcare Fraud

Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding: <u>online, by phone, or by mail.</u>

Avoiding Fraud & Scams

The Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number
- Your bank account or credit card numbers
- Money or donations
- Your citizenship status

If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce seal and an expiration date.

Why the Census is important

Responses to the 2020 census will shape how billions of dollars in federal funding will be distributed to your local communities annually. Medicaid, Health Care Programs, SNAP, Section 8 Housing are just a few programs affected by the Census results.

Spread the Word

Tell everyone—your friends and family, your neighbors and co-workers—why it's important that they respond to Census 2020. Also, share how they can avoid fraud & scams.

If you have any questions about Census 2020, visit 2020census.gov or call the NYS SMP Helpline at 800-333-4374.

Source: 2020census.gov

Meet SMP Volunteer Barb McBurnie

I retired from 20 years of service with the local Office for the Aging with a lot of experience with Medicare counseling (was a SHIP certified counselor for years).

While at the Office for the Aging, I was involved with StateWide & upon retirement, continued being active with the local Chapter. With my extensive counseling background, it made sense to become an SMP volunteer and continue to educate people about Medicare and how to combat fraud.

The process to become an SMP volunteer was easy to do: the on-line training was simple to use and very informative. I speak about Medicare fraud at every meeting I attend, be it a Senior Citizen Club, Women's group, professional advisory board, or even at a local watering hole. During the Spring & Summer months, the local Chapter participates in many community events (from the Dairy Princess festival to the annual Seniorama to the BassMasters fishing tournament) and SMP literature is widely distributed.

I look forward to continuing to help people understand Medicare and how to recognize fraud and abuse. I also look forward to recruiting more SMP volunteers and helping with their training.

-Barb McBurnie, SMP Volunteer since Jan, 2019