

Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA)

Who Are We?

Since 1973, OFA has worked to help maintain the quality of life and independence of Dutchess County's growing older adult population.

Our Mission

Dutchess County OFA plans, coordinates and provides an array of community based services to older adults and persons who require assistance in the long term care system, in an effort to promote independence, dignity, and quality of life. Through its distinctive role of committed advocate and community partner, the agency strives to ensure clients' needs will continue to be met, now and in the future.

How We Are Funded

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging is a County Agency funded under Title III of the U.S. Older Americans Act, the New York State Office for the Aging, and the County of Dutchess.

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Prevent Medicare Fraud

Do:

Protect your Medicare Number and your Social Security Number.

Use a calendar to record all of your doctor's appointments and tests.

Learn more about Medicare scams. See dutchessny.gov/ofaprintable for printable scam prevention material.

Know what a Medicare plan can and can't do before you join.

DON'T:

Give your Medicare card, Medicare Number, Social Security card, or Social Security Number to anyone - except your doctor or people you know require it.

Accept offers of money or gifts for "free" medical care or tests.

Allow anyone, except your doctor or other Medicare providers, to review your medical records or recommend services.

Office for the Aging QR Code



On a smartphone or mobile device, open the camera app so that the QR code appears in the camera's viewfinder.

Your device will show a notification.

Tap the notification to go to the Office for the Aging website.



SHIP
State Health Insurance
Assistance Program
Navigating Medicare



What's HIICAP?

HIICAP is your free local source for impartial information about Medicare, Medicaid policies and supplemental choices, Medicare Advantage Programs, other insurance questions, Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage), and other benefit programs.

HIICAP is a federally-funded program from the Administration for Community Living (ACL). HIICAP is administered by the New York State Office for the Aging and is staffed locally by Dutchess County Office for the Aging staff and certified volunteers.

HIICAP provides you and your loved ones with unbiased information, education and counseling about Medicare and other health insurances. Trained staff and volunteers will answer all of your questions at no charge. There is a suggested donation for those who can afford to donate to the program.

To access HIICAP services by phone, contact the Office for the Aging at our HIICAP Hotline:

845-486-2566

When you call you can:

- Get your questions answered
- Set up a meeting with a counselor
 - Request publications
- Ask about educational seminars

The calendar at the Office for the Aging HIICAP website (dutchessny.gov/hiicap) lists upcoming workshops, or you can call the HIICAP Hotline above for more information.

HIICAP Can Help You...

- Understand Medicare eligibility and Medicare enrollment periods.
- Choose between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans, including Medicare HMOs, Medicare PPOs, Medicare Special Needs Plans and Medicare Private Fee-for-Service Plans.
- Understand the Medicare prescription drug benefit (Medicare Part D) and how to select the best plan.
- Understand the "Extra Help" program, a low income subsidy offered by the Social Security Administration to help reduce Part D costs.
- Understand and apply for the N.Y. State EPIC Program (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage).
- Discover ways to fill Medicare's "gaps" in coverage, with supplemental plans.
- Apply for the Medicare Savings Program for low income beneficiaries.
- Understand Medicare rules and your medical bills.
- Appeal a decision by Medicare, your managed care provider, or other insurance company.
- Learn about health prevention and screening benefits.
- Report possible Medicare fraud or abuse, or appeal a decision by Medicare fraud or abuse.

Online Resources

New York State Office for the Aging: aging.ny.gov
HIICAP (NY State): aging.ny.gov/healthbenefits
Medicare: medicare.gov
Medicare Interactive: medicareinteractive.org
NYS Dept of Health: health.ny.gov
NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs: veterans.ny.gov
NYS Partnership for Long Term Care:
nyspltc.health.ny.gov
Medicare Rights Center: medicarerights.org
Social Security Administration: ssa.gov

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