

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

K-State Research and Extension develops and delivers practical, research-based solutions to challenges faced by all Kansans, which includes the grand challenges:

- Global Food Systems
- Water
- Health
- Community Vitality
- Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

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Grand Challenge: Health

Title: Medicare Education Available at the Shawnee County Extension Office

Why is this issue important?

Just under 19% of Kansans are currently enrolled in Medicare, this number has grown in the last few years. There are many complex decisions to be made and guidelines to follow regarding Medicare, but there are limited resources to obtain objective information. Individuals can save money by making informed decisions, which can alleviate stress and conserve funds for future needs.

How did Extension address this issue?

Susan Fangman, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent is a trained Senior Health Insurance Counselor. She works with new-to-Medicare clients year round to provide free, unbiased, confidential education to Shawnee County Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers. Susan also offers counseling sessions during Medicare Open Enrollment helping beneficiaries find the best prescription drug plan for their circumstances.

What was the impact?

- Provided new-to-Medicare counseling to 33 individuals last year
- During the Medicare Open Enrollment period for 2022 counseled 168 individuals, helping 80 clients to change prescription drug plans. Beneficiaries were able to save just under \$73,000 by changing plans.



Turning 65

Medicare Basics

Success Story:

- "In this age of technology, I am afraid I might mess up, so very thankful this service is available to us. The first year we had to do this I was nearly physically sick from worry of it all and I hear new Medicare participants saying the same thing." -Roberta, after meeting with Susan during Medicare Part D Open Enrollment
- "Your knowledge about this specific and special niche of insurance gives us comfort that we are making an informed decision regarding our health care choices." -Jim & Bobbi, have been meeting with Susan for several years as new-to-Medicare clients and during Part D Open Enrollment