

Big Changes in Medicare Require Our Response

The new provisions of the **Medicare Modernization Act (MMA)**, enacted in 2003, will begin to take effect shortly. In this light, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Offices of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) have joined forces to publicize the Act's new benefits, while promoting healthy living for Medicare recipients.

With the **Part D: Prescription Drug Coverage** becoming available to all people with Medicare on January 1, 2006, PHS and CMS are working together to enable recipients to make informed decisions on how they receive their health care, especially regarding the new preventive benefits and the upcoming drug coverage. **This is a critical issue that many covered individuals are unaware of, and which needs our educational support!**

Future opportunities to address these complex and across the board changes in the plan will be available, please let us know if you'd like to help.

Moreover, there will be new resources to promote physical activity, healthy nutrition, and smoking cessation. As volunteer emergency health responders we are also tasked to educate on public health issues. In

Volunteers Insurance Augmentation Available

Members who are officially registered with our Emergency Volunteer Corps, or Medical Reserve Corps, will be provided supplemental insurance coverage such as Excess Accidental Medical, Volunteer Liability, AD&D, and Excess Auto Liability coverage.

There is no cost to Emergency Volunteer Corps or Medical Reserve Corps participants. Existing members of our emergency volunteer corps do not need to sign up via the form to be included. RSVP members are already offered this insurance coverage as well. Learn more at <http://www.cimaworld.com>

addition, our new Project Aware is tailored to address public health needs for those 55 years and older as well. And Frederick County's Parish Nurses will be involved in these educational activities during the next several months.



"The federal government is about to roll out major changes in the Medicaid program. Volunteers across Frederick County will be needed to help our neighbors understand these changes and their impact. I hope folks will care enough to get involved." - **Frederick Delegate Richard Weldon**

► Free Trainings in Business Preparedness and Family Preparedness are available to groups, contact Dr. Robert Young, Frederick Community College, 301-846-2618 or ryoung@frederick.edu

