About the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment
About the Center

The National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment helps organizations enroll seniors and younger adults with disabilities with limited means into the benefits programs for which they are eligible so that they can remain healthy and improve the quality of their lives.
About the Center – History

- Reauthorization of Older Americans Act (2006) directed AoA to establish national center on senior benefits outreach and enrollment:
  - NCOA awarded cooperative agreement and established the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment, September 2008
  - NCOA/Center awarded the contract to serve as the MIPPA Resource Center, May 2009
About the Center – Mission

- To increase access to benefits for seniors and younger adults with disabilities by:
  - Providing tools, resources and technology that help local, state and regional organizations to:
    - find, counsel and assist seniors and younger adults with disabilities
    - apply for and enroll in the benefits for which they may be eligible
  - Generating and disseminating new knowledge about best practices and cost effective strategies for benefits outreach and enrollment.
About the Center – Mission (2)

- Focus on public benefits critical to people with Medicare with limited incomes and resources:
  - Medicare Part D Extra Help/Low-Income Subsidy (LIS)
  - Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)
  - Medicaid
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamps
  - Energy assistance (LIHEAP)
  - State Pharmacy Assistance Programs (SPAP)
  - SSI

- Emphasis on person-centered strategies
Estimated percent of eligible older adults enrolled in benefits programs:

- Low-Income Subsidy: 77%
- Medicaid: 60%
- SSI: 53%
- MSP: 46%
- SNAP: 35%

Year started:
- Low-Income Subsidy: 2006
- Medicaid: 1965
- SSI: 1972
- SNAP: 1964
How We Do It – Support to MIPPA Grantees

- MIPPA Resource Center:
  - Providing oversight, technical assistance, training to 49 states, DC and PR
  - AAAs, ADRCs and SHIPs assisting those eligible for LIS and MSPs - making Medicare affordable to the poorest beneficiaries
  - Providing accountability to federal sponsors (CMS and AoA) through data reporting on MIPPA activities
How We Do It – Benefits Enrollment Centers
How We Do It –
Training and Technical Assistance

- **Training and technical assistance** on effective outreach, screening, enrollment, and follow-up strategies:
  - Monthly webinars
  - Publications
  - Sample materials
  - Individualized support—via phone, email, in person
  - Conference presentations & workshops
How We Do It – Disseminate Promising Practices

- **Searchable clearinghouse** on promising practices and cost-effective methods for finding and enrolling people in benefits:
  - Raising awareness and making connections
  - Screening for eligibility
  - Application assistance
  - Understanding and using benefits - economic stimulus for your communities
  - Retaining benefits as long as eligibility continues
- Submit your own examples!

http://www.centerforbenefits.org/clearinghouse.html
BenefitsCheckUp® is a web-based tool that screens seniors for over 2,000 Federal, State, City and private benefits. Includes over 50,000 offices nationwide where those eligible for benefits can apply.

www.BenefitsCheckUp.org
To date, nearly 3 million screenings have been completed using BenefitsCheckUp, worth over $10 billion in benefits.
BenefitsCheckUp Capabilities

✔ **Benefits Screening Tools:** Screening questionnaires to help people learn about which government or private programs they may be eligible for to help pay for prescription drugs, health care, utilities, and other needs, based on their individual situation.

✔ **SNAP Map:** Interactive Mapping feature to help consumers and organizations find information and application forms for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps) in their state.

✔ **Downloadable Application Forms:** Application Forms and Fact Sheets for programs.

✔ **Online Application for Rx Extra Help:** User-friendly online LIS application that is electronically submitted to the Social Security Administration, while automatically screening for other key federal and state benefits.
Connect with Us

- Website: http://www.CenterforBenefits.org
- Email:
  - CenterforBenefits@ncoa.org
  - Hilary Dalin: hilary.dalin@ncoa.org
  - Brandy Bauer: brandy.bauer@ncoa.org