

Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

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January 21, 2020

Mr. Robert Chatfield, Mayor
Prospect Town Hall
36 Center Street
Prospect, CT 06712

Dear Mr. Chatfield,

Many members of the aging and disabled population in your area are unaware that there are state and federal programs available to help reduce their health care costs. The Western CT Area Agency on Aging's CHOICES Program can help them choose the most appropriate and cost-effective health insurance coverage!

CHOICES is a collaboration between the CT State Department on Aging, the five Area Agency on Aging, and the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. The CHOICES program, also known as the *CT State Health Assistance Program* (SHIP) is responsible for helping Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers access *free, unbiased and confidential counseling, education and assistance*. Certified **CHOICES Counselors** can also provide eligibility screenings and assist beneficiaries with state/federal benefit applications which *help people save money*. These programs include but are not limited to, the Part D low income Subsidy/Extra Help, the Medicare Savings Program and Medicare Preventive Benefits.

The Western CT Area Agency on Aging in Waterbury is offering a 6-session CHOICES Certification Training beginning with orientation on **April 7, 2020**. We would like to ask that your municipality nominate **one person** to attend our CHOICES Training. We hope that your municipality will partner with us to spread the word, as this is a great opportunity to help the people you serve!

Your volunteer can begin by calling Francesca Evangelista, the CHOICES Regional Coordinator in Waterbury CT at 203 757-5449 x129 for additional information and to register for this training. For more information, please refer to the flyer attached.

Thank you in advance for partnering with CHOICES to serve your community!

Sincerely,



Francesca Evangelista, B.A.
CHOICES Regional Coordinator
Western CT Area Agency on Aging
84 Progress Ln.
Waterbury, CT 06705
(203) 757-5449 x129

The Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, Inc. develops, manages and provides comprehensive services through person centered planning for seniors, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities in order to maintain their independence and quality of life. The WCAAA is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

2020 CHOICES New Team Member Training

Western CT Area Agency on Aging

CHOICES, Connecticut’s State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), is accepting applications for our 2020 New Team Member Training sessions. CHOICES is part of a national network of SHIP agencies that offers free, confidential counseling, education and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries, their caregivers and the general public. CHOICES is administered by the Dept. of Aging and Disability Services State Unit on Aging in partnership with CT’s five Area Agencies on Aging and the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.

CHOICES New Team Member Trainings are free for volunteers and \$125 for in-kind (paid) professionals. Training participants will complete an orientation session and pre-test, 5 full days of training, sign the CHOICES Memorandum of Understanding, and pass the online certification exam. Training topics include but are not limited to: Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, Medigap, eligibility, coverage, costs, coordination of benefits and transitions from other insurance, and cost assistance programs for low-income beneficiaries, including MSP, LIS and Medicaid. Training manuals will be provided.

CHOICES Team Member roles include: Counselor, Administrative Support, Open Enrollment Counselor, Outreach Counselor, and Presenter. If you would like to make a positive difference in the lives of Connecticut’s Medicare beneficiaries, contact your CHOICES Regional Coordinator. Individuals who may have a conflict of interest such as insurance agents, brokers and financial planners are unable to participate in the trainings.

How?	Contact CHOICES Regional Coordinator Francesca Evangelista (203) 757-5449 x129 for information on the application process.
Where?	WCAAA- 84 Progress Ln. 2 nd FL. / Waterbury, CT 06705
When?	Orientation Session: Tuesday, April 7 th 9am-3pm Training Sessions: Thursday, April 16 th 9am-3pm Tuesday April 21 st 9am-3pm Thursday, April 23 rd 9am-3pm Tuesday, April 28 th 9am-3pm Thursday, April 30 th 9am-3pm



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