



**The Missouri SMP
Care Connection for Aging Services
106 W. Young St.
P.O. Box 1078
Warrensburg, Missouri 64093**

Missouri SMP Works Toward Statewide Coverage

Across the country, Senior Medicare Patrol Programs, or SMPs are helping Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries prevent, detect and report health care fraud. They not only protect older persons, they also help preserve the integrity of the Medicare and Medicaid programs for future generations. The Office of Inspector General estimates over \$60 billion are lost to Medicare fraud, abuse and errors each year.

Because this work often requires face-to-face contact to be most effective, SMPs nationwide recruit and train nearly 4,500 volunteers every year to help in this effort. Most SMP volunteers are both retired and Medicare beneficiaries, thus well-positioned to assist their peers in their own communities.

Here in Missouri, the Missouri SMP is working to broaden their coverage across the state. A 2-day training session is being offered free of charge to people wishing to volunteer for this program. Informative training sessions will be conducted in Cape Girardeau on July 11th and 12th, in Springfield on July 18th and 19th, and in Kansas City on July 26th and 27th.

In these training sessions, Missouri SMP volunteers will learn ways to teach Medicare beneficiaries how to, identify and report errors on their health care bills, identify deceptive health care practices, and protect their personal identity.

Choosing activities that fit their time and interests, Missouri SMP volunteers will share the message to protect, detect and report potential healthcare fraud, errors and abuse to their friends and neighbors. Volunteers are needed to work with individual beneficiaries to review Medicare Summary Notices for accuracy, make presentations to groups about how to avoid getting taken by scam artists, help at a SMP exhibit at community health fairs, and more.

To join the Missouri SMP, MORTA members and others from around the state can call the Missouri SMP, at 1-888-515-6565 to reserve a spot in a training session near them. They can also ask about completing a self-directed, on-line training on their home computer.

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