



PRESS RELEASE



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Rhode Islanders Can Find Help With Medicare Open Enrollment at United Way Community events statewide, private consultations by appointment highlight assistance available through the Dec. 7 enrollment deadline

Providence, Rhode Island (Nov. 8, 2023) — United Way of Rhode Island is offering free assistance to those age 65 and older and adults with disabilities who need help enrolling in or reviewing their Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans for 2024 coverage. The current open enrollment period ends on Dec. 7 and is the only time at which individuals can make changes to their health and prescription plans for the coming year.

Help with enrollment is available at many community events scheduled throughout the state and by way of one-on-one consultations made by appointment. [A list of available enrollment assistance events can be found online](#). Additionally, individuals may call the Point, Rhode Island's free Aging and Disability Resource Center, at (401) 462-4444 to schedule an appointment or with questions about Medicare enrollment. The Point offers calls in a wide variety of languages.

“Older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities need to know it is imperative that they annually check their current benefits and enroll in a suitable Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plan if they are to receive coverage next year,” said Cortney Nicolato, United Way's president and CEO. “This is all about helping our neighbors get the most out of a program designed specifically for them, but that often feels daunting and has become increasingly complex to navigate.”

During open enrollment assistance events and consultations made by appointment, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselors will be available to answer questions about coverage and plan options, review and compare previous plan coverage, and assist with enrollment for 2024. Among the factors to keep in mind when considering coverage are:

- Was there a procedure or medication you needed in 2023 that was not covered;
- Have you received a new diagnosis;
- What were your copays last year and are there new medications you are taking or anticipate needing; and
- Are you struggling financially or have you had a change in your income?

Those attending an event or consultation appointment are asked to bring the following documents and information: identification; Medicare card and any other health insurance cards; a list of prescription medications being taken; and the names of all doctors and medical providers being seen.

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United Way of Rhode Island is uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders. As a member of the world's largest nonprofit network, we bring together individuals, businesses, nonprofits, community leaders, and government to tackle the root causes of inequity and achieve specific, measurable goals. Our programs include 211, the statewide front door connecting Rhode Islanders with social services, resources, and vital programs. Both directly and through grants to nonprofits, we are investing to build economic opportunity, advance childhood learning, expand philanthropy, and drive policy and participation. To learn more, visit unitedwayri.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [X](#).