

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

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Grand Challenge:

Title: Medicare Education at the Shawnee County Extension Office During Open Enrollment

Why is this issue important?

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment is held each year October 15-December 7. It is a time for Medicare beneficiaries to review their prescription drug plans and make changes to their coverage if needed for the upcoming year. There are 20-plus plans available in the area that vary in terms of premiums, deductibles, drugs covered, and pharmacy networks. These differences can affect access to prescription drugs as well as total out-of-pocket costs.

How did Extension address this issue?

Susan Fangman, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent, is a trained Senior Health Insurance Counselor for Kansas. She works with New-to-Medicare clients as well as helps Medicare beneficiaries during Medicare open enrollment by providing free, unbiased, confidential education.

What was the impact?

During the 2024 Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Period:

- 165 Medicare beneficiaries received one-on-one counseling sessions with Susan.
- 65 individuals changed plans helping them save approximately \$108,500.

