

# Important Notice

## **Important dates for the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan--Part D**

- May-October 2005 Applications for Extra Help available at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or 1-800-772-1213 for people who may be eligible.
- Mid-October 2005 Medicare drug plan comparisons available on [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or 1-800-333-4114.
- October 25, 2005 Social Security Administration discussion at AJP at 11 a.m. A Joint program with the Port Chester Seniors. This program is for those who think they might be eligible for the Extra Help feature.\*
- November 15, 2005 Initial enrollment period for Medicare prescription drug benefit (Part D) begins.
- November 15, 2005 Special workshop on Medicare Part D led by representatives of the SOS Medicare Rights Center. 12:30 p.m. at AJP. Don't miss this very important workshop.
- January 1, 2006 Medicare drug benefit begins. People with Medicare and Medicaid must get their prescription drugs through Medicare.
- May 15, 2006 Initial enrollment period ends. Medicare approved discount card ends.

\*You may qualify for "extra help" with your Medicare drug costs, if your 2005 income is below \$14,355 (\$19,245 for couples) and your resources are less than \$11,500 (\$23,000 for couples).

### **Additional Information**

Insurance companies that will be offering prescription drug plans in the State of New York, can begin marketing their plans on October 1, 2005. The Federal Government is allowing the insurance companies to market their plans by making phone calls to senior citizens. Please be careful not to give out any personal information over the phone.

"Creditable Coverage"--If your prescription drugs are currently covered by a retirement benefit from a former employer, you should be receiving a letter from that insurance company by November 15<sup>th</sup> stating whether or not your current coverage is better than the new Medicare plans. **Save this letter!** If your current plan has "creditable coverage" this means it is better than a Medicare prescription drug plan and you will not have to pay a premium penalty if you want to enroll in a Medicare plan later.