



City of Corpus Christi's RSVP Volunteer Program Joins the Fight Against Medicare Fraud

Training Session August 25 & 27, 2010

The City of Corpus Christi **RSVP** is partnering with the **Texas Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)** to recruit and train individuals in the prevention of Medicare fraud. A nationwide program, the Senior Medicare Patrol is credited with saving taxpayers more than \$100 million since its inception in 1997.

For decades, SMP volunteers have witnessed all kinds of schemes. There are fly-by-night clinics where patients get paid to take multiple tests given by staff with dubious credentials. Patients may even be followed home from the hospital by companies selling home health care services, scooters, and diabetic or arthritis supplies. Often, senior citizens are persuaded to give up their personal information with an offer of something they might need, like transportation to kidney dialysis appointment or to receive a scooter. "Once a scam artist has someone's Medicare number, they will pass it around," states Barbara McGinity, Texas SMP Project Director. "It is really important that you do not give out your Medicare number over the phone to someone you do not know; protect it as you would your social security number."

Volunteers will receive extensive training which includes the SMP mission, Medicare basics, how to recognize Medicare fraud, and what to do about it. Once trained, volunteers become the SME (Subject Matter Expert) who will make presentations to Medicare beneficiaries on how to protect their health care dollars and how to report suspected fraud. Presentations will be scheduled throughout the year at special events, community health fairs, places of worship, etc.

A two-day training session for RSVP/Texas Senior Medicare Patrol will be held on Wednesday, August 25, and Friday, August 27, 2010. The sessions are scheduled from 9:30am to 2:00pm at the YWCA, 4601 Corona Dr. Corpus Christi, Texas. Lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in volunteering, **please contact Sylvia Tryon Oliver, City of Corpus Christi's RSVP Program Director, at 361 826-3148.** Volunteers age 55 and older will receive additional benefits by enrolling as an RSVP Volunteer.

Help Keep Our Seniors Safe. Stomp Fraud!

Join Today as an RSVP/SMP Volunteer!



The City of Corpus Christi has been the local sponsor of the RSVP Program for 33 years, which operates under the Parks & Recreation Department. For more information about the programs and services offered by the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department, visit www.ccparkandrec.com.