



# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

HIV ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network  
News  
2014  
September Issue #171

OREGON HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

**Thank you Team OHSU/Partnership Project and CAP! We had a great time at AIDS Walk and raised \$3191! We received a check for \$1914! Just in time our annual Turkey Project!**



## Next Meeting September

Tuesday, October  
14th

800 NE Oregon-1D

Update on Hepatitis  
C

Jude Leahy,  
Oregon Health  
Authority

## SAY WHAT? SOCIAL SECURITY TERMS FOR DICTIONARY DAY

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

Lexicographers, celebrate! October 14 is Dictionary Day. The day was established to recognize the achievements and contributions of Noah Webster. What better time than the present to invite you to learn some new Social Security terms?

In the course of doing business with Social Security, you probably have come across more than a few acronyms or terms that left you scratching your head. For example: Your FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) contributions aren't the only factor to affect your OASDI (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) payments and eligibility. You also must consider such items as insured status, month of election, and PIA (Primary Insurance Amount). Your protective filing date can make a difference as well. And each year the amount of your payment is subject to change as the CPI-W (Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers) brings about a new COLA (cost-of-living adjustment).

Although we try to use plain language when communicating with the public, we understand that there are many Social Security terms that are considered jargon to people not steeped in agency policy. Once in a while you may want to look up a term used in official notices or complicated explanations of how benefits are computed. Don't worry. Social Security has its very own glossary to help.

The *Glossary Of Social Security Terms* is available online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/glossary](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/glossary). We also have an English to Spanish version of the glossary, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/glossary/english-spanish-glossary.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/glossary/english-spanish-glossary.html).

Also, check out our library of easy-to-understand publications at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs). Chances are you'll seldom find a word that isn't easy to understand, thanks to our focus on conversational writing style. In fact, we're the only federal agency to get straight A's on the 2013 "Plain Writing Report Card" from the Center for Plain Language.

If you do encounter a word or phrase you don't recognize, the place to go on Dictionary Day or any day is [www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/glossary](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/glossary).

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## LET'S TALK ABOUT MEDICARE

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

October is "Talk About Prescriptions Month" and marks the beginning of this year's Medicare open enrollment period. It's the perfect time to talk about Medicare prescriptions and the *Extra Help* available from Social Security. Newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries and current beneficiaries who are considering changes to their Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage) plan, should act now. The Medicare open enrollment period runs from October 15 to December 7.

The Medicare Part D prescription drug plan is available to all Medicare beneficiaries to help with the costs of medications. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary, and participants pay an additional monthly premium for the prescription drug coverage.

While all Medicare beneficiaries can participate in the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, some people with limited income and resources may be eligible for *Extra Help* to pay for monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. The *Extra Help* is estimated to be worth about \$4,000 per year. Many Medicare beneficiaries qualify for these big savings and don't even know it.

To figure out whether you are eligible for the *Extra Help*, Social Security needs to know your income and the value of any savings, investments, and real estate (other than the home you live in). To qualify, you must be receiving Medicare and have:

Income limited to \$17,235 for an individual or \$23,265 for a married couple living together. Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. Some examples where your income may be higher include if you or your spouse:

- Support other family members who live with you;
- Have earnings from work; or
- Live in Alaska or Hawaii; and

Resources limited to \$13,440 for an individual or \$26,860 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks, and bonds. We do not count your house or car as resources.

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You can complete an easy-to-use online application or get more information by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare). To apply for the *Extra Help* by phone or have an application mailed to you, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the *Application for Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs* (SSA-1020).

And if you would like more information about the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program, visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

While we're on the subject of open seasons, the open enrollment period for qualified health plans under the Affordable Care Act is November 15 to February 15. Learn more about it at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

This Medicare open enrollment season, while you search for the Medicare prescription drug plan that best meets your needs—see if you qualify for the *Extra Help* through Social Security. That's a winning prescription worth talking about.

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## TRICK, DON'T TREAT, CYBER CRIMINALS

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

Kids and kids at heart look forward to the end of October, when we use tricks and treats in equal measure to celebrate Halloween. No doubt, you'll be passing out treats to costumed hobgoblins and hooligans in your neighborhood this Halloween night. But be careful that you're not fooled by a different kind of trickster looking for a larger handout—such as your identity.

October also is Crime Prevention Month and National Cyber Security Awareness Month. So it is the perfect time to remind you to safeguard your personal information—whether it's online, on paper, or given out in person. Don't share your personal information, such as your full name, date of birth, mother's maiden name, and your Social Security number, with anyone unless you are certain it is safe. Shred paperwork that includes personal information before throwing it out. And never reply to emails claiming to be from Social Security and asking for such information. Finally, don't carry your Social Security card or number with you. These tips should help reduce your risk of identity theft.

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in America. If you think you've been the victim of an identity thief, you should contact the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft). Or you can call 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338); TTY 1-866-653-4261.

Learn more about identity theft by reading our publication, *Identity Theft And Your Social Security Number*, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

Be cautious of tricksters trying to steal more than a sack of candy. Being the victim of identity theft can be horrifying. Enjoy the treats, but avoid the tricks.

## YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A TECHIE TO USE SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

October 3 is Techies Day—a time for propeller-heads to embrace their hardware-obsessed, online-addicted selves. But for the less technical, it also happens to be the 14th annual Computer Learning Month. So you have an entire month to figure out what the techies are celebrating.

You don't have to be a techie or take a computer course to use Social Security's online services. They're so easy to use, anyone can do it! Just visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices) and you'll see what we mean.

What exactly can you do online? A lot. Open a *my Social Security* account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). You can use a *my Social Security* account to access your *Social Security Statement* to ensure that the earnings posted are accurate, since earnings are the basis of retirement benefits. You also can get estimates of future retirement, disability, and survivor benefits you or your family may receive. If you already receive Social Security benefits, you can get benefit verification letters, change your address and phone number, and start or update direct deposit information. Besides being safe, convenient, and secure, it's easy to set up an account, so join the millions who already have one.

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You can do other things at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) as well. You can apply for benefits, get answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about our programs, and find out all you want to know about Social Security from our webpages and online publications.

Social Security has been online for 20 years, and there is so much you can do from the comfort of your own home that wasn't even a consideration 20 years ago. Perhaps we owe a debt of gratitude to the techies. But, our online services are so easy to use, you don't have to be a techie to take advantage of the best online services in government.

Whether you're a techie or a technophobe, we hope to serve you online soon at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

PROPORCIONANDO ABOGACIA Y SERVICIOS DESDE 1995

**We're hiring a .50 FTE ( 20 hours a week) Spanish Speaking RN.**

**Please direct folks to [OHSU Jobs](#) to read the job description and apply!!**

Spanish Speaking Nurse Case Manager will provide comprehensive case management services to HIV+ clients and their families through the continuum of HIV related care. Key services include health assessment, coordination of services, transition planning, and education in conjunction with an interdisciplinary team.

Qualifications	Required
<b>Education:</b>	Bachelors Degree of Nursing
<b>Experience:</b>	A minimum of two years of applicable HIV clinical experience in community health and/or case management.
<b>Job Related Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (Competencies):</b>	-Bilingual in Spanish -Must have the ability to problem solve and work with extremely complex clients who present with multiple diagnoses and social problems. -Understanding of the role of the nurse and the scope of practice in Oregon --Needs to have understanding of cultural factors that influence service access and delivery. -Must have excellent written and oral communication skills. -Needs working knowledge of computer operations and EHR.
<b>Registrations, Certifications and/or Licenses:</b>	Active Oregon RN License

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**This issue, and issues from Feb 2002 on, can be found electronically [here](#)**