

Operator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode until the question-and-answer session of today's conference. At that time, you may press "star one" on your phone to ask a question. I would like to inform all parties that today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the conference over to Ms. Kaitlin Hammond. Thank you, you may begin.

Kaitlin Hammond: Good afternoon, thank you for joining us today. My name is Kaitlin Hammond and I will be facilitating your webinar today. We will be having Lacey Vaughn with the Administration for Community Living speaking on Title 6 MIPAA grants. There will be a question-and-answer session at the end of the presentation, if you have any questions please press "star one" to open up your phone line. We will also have the presentation and recording of this webinar posted on the Older Indians website at a later date. I will now turn this over to Lacey.

Lacey Vaughn: Thank you, Kaitlin and greetings all. My name is Lacey Vaughn and I have the opportunity to serve Title 6 grantees out of the ACL AOA Regional Office in Chicago. Timing is great to discuss this wonderful program, it's incredibly helpful to a vulnerable population, because this current grant opportunity does come to a close at the end of September and we anticipate the new award applications to be released sometime soon. And that's a federal term – "soon". But due in mid-August. So, keep a watchful eye for the new opportunities for those that might be interested in a potential grant opportunity here. For those who attended the webinar last November, much of this presentation will be the same and serve as a reminder and update for the 2017 information and we should have plenty of time for questions at the end of the presentation. Education and information is key to successful aging, so I look forward to speaking to you about this program. Right, so, it's only fitting to start with a slide that includes the language direct from the program announcement of the grant that explains what the program is and the expectations for receiving the funding. MIPPA, or the Medicare Beneficiary Outreach and Assistance Program, is a program designed to support eligible elders for the low-income subsidy program, the Medicare savings program, Medicare Part D, Medicare prevention benefits and screenings, and in assisting to apply for benefits in rural areas. These are programs that can actually help people in their every day and this program is important because some of our elders don't know about them or their potential eligibility. These programs are not traditional because they do have higher income and asset guidelines and save elders money on their hospital stays or medications, which can save individuals a lot of money. For the MIPPA grants offered to our Title 6 programs, the requirements are to coordinate at least one community announcement, which could be anything ranging from a newsletter, a public service announcement, an online announcement on the tribal website, a flyer or poster, a targeted mailing, special place mats, etc. There is also a requirement to coordinate at least one outreach event about benefits available through the low-income subsidy or the Medicare savings program, which I'll touch on later. The outreach of that would be something like a presentation, either in person or through a web or video conference, it could be a booth or an exhibit at a health fair, or a dedicated enrollment event with some partners. Whoops – I'm getting excited, sorry. Ok, alright, so for the Title 6 programs that decided to agree to

coordinate the one event and one announcement, they had – have – one year to complete these activities. With limited time remaining to complete these grants, partnerships can be a great tool for the most impact and I'm willing to bet that any SHIP program or SMP program within your state would jump at an opportunity to partner and expand your outreach. So, there are two main programs that I'll briefly discuss for today's webinar on MIPPA that could help someone with their Medicare costs. Those are the low-income subsidy, LIS or extra help, and the Medicare savings program. And, again, it's really hard to talk about these programs without making mention of the SHIP and SMP programs, I'll explain more about what those are later. But, they also cover Medicare and we'll make sure to highlight how important these collaborations could be. If you don't know how to contact the SHIP office that's in your state, please reach out to me so I can connect you. Some of those offices are called different things, but we can connect you as you develop and enhance your outreach. SHIP programs are designated to provide non-partial education and outreach for all things Medicare. Some of those offices run through insurance departments, some are through their state aging offices, but – oh, uh, [laughter] – but are very important partners if you coordinate your MIPAA outreach activity. So, with this time frame, if the funding is provided, programs have either completed events or are looking for ideas, so, which is why we are doing the webinar today. And then the new potential grantees that we have coming down the line are also going to have some resources that I share, but with this timeframe that we have on our current award, I wanted to make sure to highlight what partnerships could potentially look like. Sorry, I'm trying to get my slide to move here.

Kaitlin Hammond: Let me see if I can –

Lacey Vaughn: Oh my gosh, I passed the ball to somebody [laughter] on accident. I don't know how –

Kaitlin Hammond: That's ok.

Lacey Vaughn: - Sherry got it [laughter].

Kaitlin Hammond: I took it back.

Lacey Vaughn: Ok. Thank you, Kaitlin. Kaitlin coming in to save the day. Ok, so we are on slide four, though, and I have the ball back. Sorry about our technical difficulties here. So, there are three programs based on various income limits and assistance offered under the Medicare savings program, which is on your screen right now. That's QMB, which is the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary program, SLMB, the "slimbee" [sounds-out acronym] program. The Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary program. And QI, the Qualified Individual program. These programs help to cover Medicare costs related to healthcare costs from a doctor or hospital, but not prescriptions. We'll make sure that you have the resources that show the income guidelines after the presentation, but I want to start by highlighting that the federal guidelines are slightly higher than the federal poverty level for the SLMB and QI programs. So, make sure, if you don't get anything out of the presentation today, just don't assume that

someone will not be eligible because it's wise to make people make an application with their state office to see if somebody qualifies because these are a little different on the, not just the basic poverty guidelines. Ok, so I'm going to get into the specifics of the Medicare Savings Programs, so in each, on the three that we are going to cover and, so, the first one is the "qwimbee" [sounds out acronym], the QMB, the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary. And on this I want you to note that income and asset limits are slightly higher for Alaska and Hawaii. So, I did make sure to list what those incomes are for single and married person households. These, these monthly incomes under the financial eligibility, they do include an extra \$20 disregard. So, keep in mind that states may disregard other income aside from the standard \$20 general exclusion. But, this is kind of just a basic eligibility requirement. The resources are going to be the same on the three programs and then it includes what that effective enrollment date is going to be and then the benefits covered. So, this is the one that has the small – the lowest financial eligibility with the most benefits here, so it includes some Part A deductible assistance. I hope you can read what the actual dollar amounts are at this time for this year, what the copays that would be covered are, what a skilled nursing facility copay coverage is, the Part B annual deductible, \$183, a Part B monthly premium, which is \$134, and then some co-insurance that would be. Resources on this do not include the \$1,500-person burial allowance and, again, states are going to vary on how they count that burial allowance resources. But there is a burial disregard fact sheet on the NCOA Center for Benefits Access website, which we'll cover as a resource later in the presentation. But, just as a general outline of eligibility, enrollment, and the benefits, this is what each of the next three slides are going to look like for the Medicare Savings Programs that you would be presenting when you get a MIPAA grant. So, the next one is the "slimbee" (SLMB), the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary, seniors and adults with disabilities may qualify for the Specified Low-Income Beneficiary program if they have an income between 100 and 120% of the federal poverty level and are under the resource requirement. This program covers the Part B monthly premium, which is \$134 at this time. Enrollment in this program puts over \$1,400 a year back into the wallets of seniors and adults with disabilities and that can be significant for someone who is on a limited income. So, great programs here. The last of those three is the QI Program, the Qualified Individual, it has a higher monthly income and eligibility limit here. So, the QI is a limited program funded through a block grant given to states. It's available on a first-come-first-serve basis, so the QI and the "slimbee" (SLMB) are the same benefit, they're just funded differently. So, but, this one is on a first-come-first-serve basis. People with Medicare may qualify if they have incomes between 120 and 135% of the federal poverty limit. So, as charted in the slide and resources under the \$7,390 if you're single and \$11,090 if your married. Again, those totals are slightly higher for residents of Alaska and Hawaii. There are, there is an additional program that I will mention that I didn't make a slide for, that is called the Qualified Disabled Working Individual Program that you might want to cover when you're doing your MIPAA outreach that covers Medicare Part A monthly premium for people with Medicare who are under the age of 65 and disabled and no longer qualify for the free Medicare Part A or Medicaid because they've returned to work and their income exceeds the limit. So, if you think of someone in your community who may qualify for the program, there's additional details on the Center for Benefits Access website listed on the resource slide, but I didn't want to include it on this one because that's pretty specific, but when you get your MIPAA grant and you're working with your community, if

you recognize that this could benefit someone, go ahead and check it out. Additionally, on these programs some of our states use different naming conventions for their programs and make it their own from the standard nomenclature that's listed on those slides prior. Ones of particular interest for our Title 6 programs, I thought, you know, might be for some of the people who have joined our call, are listed on this slide. So, Alaska, Nebraska, Oregon, and Wisconsin, some of them have those different names – uh oh – hey, Kaitlin, sorry our [laughter] thanks – Kaitlin's taking care of it on her end. Somehow our ball keeps getting passed around. But, you know, just as you are working with your programs in your states, just keep in mind that it may not be called, you know, QMB, QI, or the "slimbee" (SLMB), right off the top. It might be something a little bit different as you're creating your outreach or doing your, or creating your communication or doing your outreach. It could be something just a little bit different in the state that you're in. Ok, I got the ball, alright, so, there is another informational video and I thought we might be able to watch it. I've seen this video playing on various senior center television monitors for announcements or in waiting areas where they have a television set as part of some of their work with their MIPAA grants. It's short. It could be a potential resource. We are not able to play it on this platform, but, you know, you've got the link if you get the presentation after from Kaitlin, use it as you want to, it's really short. It's less than two minutes and, like I said, I've seen it in various places just kind of playing on that rotation as an informational video to cover basically what we just went over for the Medicare Savings Program eligibility information. Alright, so the, the next one, go ahead and just take a second to review the information on the slide. This is specific to prescription drugs, so those previous ones that we discussed on Medicare, so savings programs don't include the prescription drug cost, but this one does. So, as you take the time to review the information on the slide, I'll let you know that enrollment into the Medicare Savings Program, if you're enrolled in those, it automatically deems a person eligible to receive the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy, which is that LIS or mostly referred to as extra help. This particular benefit has an estimated annual value of around \$4,000. Very significant for someone on a low-income. It's gonna vary depending on the prescription drugs that they actually take, but it can be very, very significant and I'm not sure if those, if it looks like it does to you on your end, but if you can't see the guidelines for 2017 for the annual income guidelines, let me know and we'll get you a copy of the slide that you can actually see that because it's looking a little fuzzy on my end. You know, as I mentioned, every state has its own state insurance assistance program, state health insurance assistance program, it's that SHIP, it could be called something differently, but the health insurance assistance program, SHIPs are sometimes called different things, but this office provides free information and assistance to people with Medicare in their families. You can ask your SHIP if you qualify for extra help or the Medicare Savings Program. Even if you can't get help from these programs, that SHIP person may be able to help you select a prescription drug plan or health plan that can save your elders money. Some, some, some of your events, if you're, while you're looking at promoting these programs and getting some extra funds back into the wallets of your elders, some of them can be best coordinated with SHIP programs and because they can check the eligibility for all of these programs, but it's also incredibly important to just check someone's eligibility because those income and assets are a little bit higher than some of your more traditional programs, but it can really have an impact on someone when they have an extra \$134 at a minimum back into their wallet, which can

cover, you know, an electric bill or a cellphone plan or anything like that that can help your elders. So, these are incredibly valuable programs to get involved with. And those that are already involved, thank you so much for everything that you've been doing. Ok, so, to summarize what we've discussed so far, and review the requirements of the Title 6 programs receiving MIPAA grant funding, the minimum requirements again are one community announcement and one community outreach event. The outreach event must be around Medicare Part D in rural areas, the Low-Income Subsidy, or Extra Help, or the Medicare Savings Program. So, of all those programs that we just talked about, you just need to have one of them that's a focus. Keep in mind contacting your local SHIP for a hand with coordination. Especially as we are at the end of June, which is unbelievable, it's the first day of summer. But that September is going to be here before you know it, so, if you do, if you haven't coordinated an event or done a community announcement, I would encourage you to reach out to your SHIP program. If you don't know who that is, let me know and I will get you connected. They might have information, it could be formatted, again, to meet the unique needs of your community. Also note expenditures must properly be documented and allowable under the cost principles. If you were in on our webinar last week, we had Song Yee do a great presentation on what's allowable under the cost principles and, if you were not, we can certainly share that presentation with you to make sure that what your costs are are allowable. But, if you do have questions on if something is allowable, reach out to your regional contact or email mipaa.grants@acl.hhs.gov and we'll help you to make sure that what you're considering is an allowable cost. But, here's a list of – not all-inclusive – of what's unallowable under the Title 6 MIPAA grant. It's not, it's certainly not all-inclusive. And I would again encourage you to reach out to your regional liaison if you have additional questions on costs that you're interested in to see if it's going to be allowable or unallowable. If you have already completed your outreach event and announcement, you get a round of applause [claps hands], but please note that your narrative reports are due within ninety days following your completed events. Those narrative reports require the event, the date of your event, location, and number of participants, non-identified, don't put any lists of names in there, please, and your activity that you did. If you have a handout or flyer, be sure to include that as an attachment, to potentially share all the great things that you've done with our other grantees and highlight what's been done in future webinars like this. For those of you that are working on your report right now, some additional considerations for your report can include the partnerships or collaborations, perhaps any challenges, any actions taken to address those challenges, make sure you're attaching the flyers or newsletters or videos, such as the one included in the link in this presentation. Also, consider the impact on your community. Consider sharing a story of someone who's benefiting from the program. Being mindful, again, not to include any names, but a personal story can really have an impact on what we present to Congress or share with other potential grantees. Also, something to consider is what you, your staff, or your community learned by receiving these grant dollars. So, again, those reports are due ninety days after you complete your outreach event and your community announcements. The report submission, the narrative, and the financial report should be submitted via email to the email address listed on the screen, the mipaa.grants@acl.hhs.gov. You'll want to include the words SF 425 and/or progress report with the state, the name of your tribe, and your MIPAA grant number on the subject line of that email to make sure that gets organized correctly. Or you can send a hard copy of your report to

the Administration for Community Living office, with attention [inaudible]. So, make sure we get those reports in if you receive this grant. Some of the problems that we've seen for those programs that have completed an event, just make note of, some of the submitted MIPAA reports, they haven't, one, they haven't been submitted. So, if you have completed your event, make sure that you are submitting your report timely. We sometimes find that we start reaching out and checking on the status of our grantee, only to find that they did complete their event and just didn't complete their report. So, you'll probably be hearing from your liaison pretty soon or Cecilia Aldridge in our central office checking on the status of where you are with your current grant soon. But, if months go by it gets really hard to remember what happened, so I would encourage you to make sure that you take great detailed notes, get the report in sooner rather than waiting because it's just trouble for everyone. And some additional problems that we've been seeing with some submitted MIPAA reports is that there's just limited detail. Your details need to include the date of your event or publication, how many people it impacted, what the program focus was to ensure that it was within the required programs, who your speaker was if there was a speaker, where the event was and how long it lasted, or your targeted audience. You know, in this program, in our Title 6 work, we learn the most from each other in what's working, what's not working, and depending on these reports we can continue to receive funding and share with our network what – the good things that we're doing. Some other issues that have come up, some don't include any collaboration detail, as you may have noticed we encourage partnerships and collaborations. We would encourage that information to be included and to share with our network who's a good partner for these sorts of things. We wanna make sure that we, again, learn from each other. Another requirement is to create an announcement. So, we know that many of the announcements were created via flyer or handout or something tangible and we want you to show it off, so please, please, please include your work. And, lastly, it's important that no personal information is included with your report or included in an attachment attendant list. We do need to know the number of participants, but no names, please. Ok, so, getting into the resources here. So, in addition to discussing those requirements, I do need to mention some available resources for those of you interested in applying for the MIPAA grant for the first time. Please review these resources. And even if you don't apply, please review the resources. Or, if you are currently receiving the funds, these are excellent resources to explore. I've listed the links here in hopes that this does get shared, the presentation, but I do have some screenshots of a couple of these resources that I would like to highlight, but again, ask to receive the PowerPoint, I can email it to you if you forget to send it in the chat feature, your email in the chat for Kaitlin to follow up with you. But, note that these, I will note, and I still have trouble with this myself, these resources are best accessed using a browser that is not Internet Explorer. So, something like Google Chrome or Fire Fox will work. Explorer is not so much and I still have some continued issue on this particular website, but make sure that we share that with NCOA, too. So, the Center for Benefits Access here, that's the home screen. The NCOA, the National Center for Benefits Access, serves as the MIPAA resource center. Information on benefits, including all the core benefits, like we had just discussed. The Low-Income Subsidy, the Medicare Savings Program, but in addition you'll find information for low-income energy assistance, Medicaid, social security, and SNAP can all be found on this website. The website also contains information on MIPAA projects and benefits enrollment centers. So,

sites that are funded to help beneficiaries apply for core benefits, which are also funded under MIPAA grants. So, it's a great resource if you are hosting an actual application event where people are encouraged to apply on site, with protections for privacy, this could be a great resource for you to host that event. The site has a resource center, has promising practices from the field, and visualization tools to help benefit counselors, identify underserved communities of individuals in their geographic area, who may be eligible for public benefits, but are not enrolled in the programs. Alright, one of the best resources that they do have on this website is for native communities and tailor to a state-specific flyer. Good news is that we have most of the states that do have the state-specific flyer, I'm going to share them with TEYA and Kaitlin and the rest of my regional colleagues that they don't already have them so you can have access to them from whoever you prefer. It's really awesome stuff here. This is part of the flyer, this is part of it, and some state-specific information that I just threw on there as an example. There is a word version available with a link that you can complete yourself with the state information, formats made for you to adjust it as needed. Or I can send you the information with, send it to you with information requested. My information is going to be on the last slide if you need any help with the state-specific MIPAA flyer for American Indians and Alaska Natives. So, I would be happy to assist you in any way that I can to make this a great tool for you. Additionally, on that website is the map visualizations, it's one of my favorite tools just because I'm kind of a nerd like that, but it's been developed, the map visualizations is the last link in that slide that has all the resources. It's a direct link to the Native American Medicare Visualization Map. Older Native Americans and those with disabilities are among the most economically vulnerable groups among the Medicare population. Native Americans in general represent one of the most critically underserved demographics in the U.S. So, as a result, in many states, in particular those with large Native American populations, closing the gaps in benefit enrollment will require reaching out to low-income Native American households, which is why we want people applying for this MIPAA grant, for this opportunity, and for those that have already done some of their programs and outreach, again, we thank you so much for the work that you have done. But, the data presented in this map can help the state or your community aging organization locate those large concentrations of low-income Native American people who are enrolled in Medicare and luckily eligible for the benefits to help you target your program a little more. We do recognize these are a little bit limited, but, you know, we wanna help you target your benefit outreach. And, the next slide is another screenshot of just, another screenshot of what that drop-down menu looks like. If you were to be on the website and mouse over the county on the map or looking at the county list in that map of your state, you can identify the approximate number of people in the county who lived in a household with someone who identified as Native American, Alaska Native, or American Indian, who was also enrolled in Medicare and has the income – meets the income requirements of below 150% of that federal poverty guideline. The darker shaded counties correspond with [inaudible] households, which may warrant some special attention from counselors who do seek to do this type of outreach with the population. Alright, so, let's see, I'm going to end, again, with encouraging – with an encouraging word to submit an application to bring this program to the communities. Not [audio cuts out] grantees are currently participating at this time. We know that these programs can help our elders. If you are participating, encourage your neighbors to enroll in these programs, but please keep a watchful eye, again, on the new

MIPAA funding applications that are coming and keep reports coming for the projects that you've already completed. This is my contact information, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the other ACL regional liaisons with any questions. We all work as a team and we'd all be happy to help you. Thank you for listening today, I'm going to open up the line, Kaitlin, for any questions.

Operator: Thank you, we will now begin the question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press "star one" unmute your phone, and record your name clearly. Your name is required to introduce your question. If you need to withdraw your question, press "star two". Again, to ask a question, please press "star one". It will take a few moments for questions to come through, please standby.

[inaudible, operator and Kaitlin Hammond interrupt each other]

Kaitlin Hammond: Oops, sorry.

Operator: That's ok, go ahead.

Kaitlin Hammond: I was just going to say if anybody has any questions you can go ahead and send your questions to me and I can read them off or you can press "star one" and open up the phone line.

Operator: We do have a question in queue. The question comes from Cynthia LaCounte, your line is open.

Cynthia LaCounte: Thank you, I don't have a question because I know everything, but I wanted to thank Lacey for this wonderful presentation and Kaitlin for being the tech genius behind the call and, everyone, I hope you're planning to apply for MIPAA. Our notice for funding should be published any day, if you haven't already seen it. We kind of lose track when we put these things forward. And we're expecting a due date for applications in mid-August. So, as soon as we know the date and the publication has been in the federal register, we will also put it on Older Indians. I'm sure TEYA will blast it out for you. So, again, I just wanted to thank Lacey for all the information and c'mon Title 6, I know you got questions. Thanks!

Operator: And, again, as a reminder, you can press "star one" on your phone and record your name if you have a question – one moment, please [longer pause]. We are showing no further questions at this time [longer pause].

Lacey Vaughn: Alright, Kaitlin, anything in the chat box?

[long pause]

Lacey Vaughn: Ok, well if there's not any questions, again, please feel free to email me any questions, if you think of it later on. If you have an interest in the PowerPoint to access those

resources, you can, I think, provide your email to Kaitlyn Hammond and she will get that presentation to you. Or you can email me, I have it as well. So, either one of us can get you a copy of the PowerPoint. And, any other, last call for questions.

Operator: Yes, we have a question coming in, one moment.

Lacey Vaughn: Ok.

Operator: The question comes from Anthony Sebastian; your line is open.

Anthony Sebastian: Hello, good afternoon. I'm Anthony Sebastian, I need information from your PowerPoint. This is the first time I'm on a webinar and, basically, I have about a hundred elders in the community that I'm at and I'm not too sure of exactly as of now what they're in need of, but I would need valuable information in regards to what you're talking about.

Lacey Vaughn: Absolutely, we'd be happy to get you this PowerPoint and connect with you, perhaps even individually after the call just to see and talk through some of the needs of your community and, but at a minimum, we can certainly get you today's presentation. I would again encourage you to access that website with a lot of resources and, so, if you have that PowerPoint, then you can have a direct link to the website with additional resources. And if you check the chat box of the Web-X, or maybe if, I don't know if you have it up, but it's kaitlin.hammond –

Anthony Sebastian: Would you repeat that again? K what?

Lacey Vaughn: kaitlin.hammond@teyaservices.com. So, she'll make sure that, one, you are – you receive this PowerPoint presentation and that you're on an ongoing listserv for communications on, from TEYA as a communication facilitator through Title 6 and then we can – or you can email me and my – or reach out to your regional liaison. We'll make sure that you're connected.

Anthony Sebastian: Ok, so if I go online, it's kcaitlynhammond@teyaservices.com?

Lacey Vaughn: Mhm.

Anthony Sebastian: And request the PowerPoint.

Lacey Vaughn: Yah, yah, absolutely, that would work perfectly.

Anthony Sebastian: Ok, that's fine. Alright.

Lacey Vaughn: Thank you.

Anthony Sebastian: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you and, again, as a reminder, if you would like to ask a question, you can press “star one” on your phone. One moment, please, for any additional question.

[long pause]

Operator: And we are showing no further questions at this time.

Kaitlin Hammond: Well, I have no questions in the chat box at this time, either.

Lacey Vaughn: Ok, great. Well then, we will email the presentation out to those who have requested and we’ll look forward to our next webinar. Kaitlin, I’ll let you kinda sign off.

Kaitlin Hammond: Mmk, thank you so much. We really appreciate all the information. I will be online for a little bit longer in case anybody else wants to send me their email. You have my email now, in case you would like to email me and request it, however it works. I will get it all to you as soon as possible. Thank you again, Lacey. That’s it, I will go ahead and sign off and everybody have a great day, thank you.

Lacey Vaughn: Thank you.

Operator: Thank you. That does conclude today’s conference, thank you for participating. You may disconnect at this time.