"EXTRA HELP"

If you have limited income and resources and are struggling to pay for your medications, you may qualify for a program called "Extra Help."

Extra Help is provided through the Social Security Administration to help qualified people with the cost of their Medicare prescription drugs.

Several K-State Research and Extension agents and area specialists throughout the state received a SCHICK grant from the Kansas Department of Aging, to reach out to eligible Kansans to inform them about "Extra Help and encourage them to apply." SHICK is a short name for Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas. SHICK is a free program offering Kansans an opportunity to talk with trained, community volunteers about their Medicare insurance questions. Libby Curry, Area Specialist, Family & Consumer Sciences, Northwest Area Extension Office, is participating in this grant project.

There are income and resource limits, but if you qualify, the subsidy provided by Extra Help pays a portion of Medicare prescription drug plan costs including monthly premium, the annual deductible, and copayment or coinsurance amount for covered drugs. Even if you are not sure you might qualify, you should apply for Extra Help.

For more information about applying for the Extra Help:

- go to the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov or
  call Social Security using their 800 number at 1-800-772-1213; or
  visit a local Social Security office

- or call Kansas SCHICK at 1-800-860-5260

or contact: Libby Curry at the Northwest Area Extension Office, 105 Experiment Farm Road, Colby, Kansas - 785-462-6281

or Glenna Clingingsmith, SCHICK Coordinator/Counselor at the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, 510 W 29th, Ste. B, Hays, Kansas, - 785-628-8204