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# RSVP Center of Essex & Hudson Counties

## Volunteer Newsletter

### Upcoming Events:

- April—SHIP Update Meeting, multiple event dates available
- April 7th—Welcome to Medicare Presentation
- April 25th —RSVP Volunteer Recognition Event (rain date May 2)

### Special points of interest:

- Learn what types of home care Medicare covers
- Celebrate AmeriCorps Seniors Week with us!
- Save the date for our Volunteer Recognition Drive Thru—a safe and social distant way for us to say thank you!

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## RSVP Updates

Congratulations to Bob Gebroe, Bruce Tenzer, and Kathryn Maloney for being selected as Honorees for the 2020 NJ State Governor's Jefferson Awards ceremony, which was held this February. This recognition is based on their extraordinary volunteer/public service. We are honored to have Kathryn, Bob, and Bruce serving at JFS MetroWest. Each of them has gone above and beyond in their volunteer roles and deserve this recognition and acknowledgement.

This year, in place of our annual luncheon, we are hosting "Driven to Serve" - a drive thru volunteer recognition event - on Sunday April 25th, with a rain date of May 2nd. Electronic invitations will go out in the next few weeks. Each volunteer will be invited to sign up for a time slot to 'drive-thru' our parking lot in Florham Park. We'll place a meal and thank you gift in your trunk or backseat as you pass through to thank you for your service. We miss being able to host the luncheon, but hope this event will brighten your day. See inside this edition for a Save the Date.

Stay tuned for more. Our annual Volunteer Satisfaction Survey will be sent out in the coming weeks. We will also begin to assess each volunteer program and plan for a phased reopening this summer as long as cases decline.

-Stephanie Grove, Senior Director of Volunteer Services



**Follow us on Facebook @RSVPEssexHudson**

## Community Needs

JVS is seeking experts at Google Classroom that can provide tech support to their teachers or directly to ESL or Adult Basic Education students. Some students are struggling to join the google classroom or to complete assignments and submit them through the google classroom. A volunteers is needed to work with the teachers and students to troubleshoot issues. The position is flexible, virtual, and as needed.

JerseySTEM is seeking volunteers interested in addressing Equity, Education, Gender disparities by helping middle school girls. Volunteers should be (reasonably) technology savvy and willing to make an impact through their professional skills (Sales, Marketing, Operations, managing teams, etc) that they are willing to share. Find more on specific positions at JerseySTEM here: <https://volunteers-jerystem.icims.com>.

## Driven to Serve

The RSVP Center of Essex & Hudson Counties is excited to announce it's 2021 Volunteer Appreciation Event: **Driven to Serve**.

Held on Sunday April 25th in the parking lot of our Florham Park office, volunteers will be able to sign up for a time slot to drive thru our event. We'll have local cops on hand to direct traffic in and out of the lot while our staff cheer on volunteers. We'll place to-go meals and recognition gifts in the trunk or back seat of your car. We ask that all attendees wear masks and stay inside their vehicle.

While we'll miss the chance to sit down with you face-to-face over lunch, we hope you'll enjoy this safe and social distant celebration.

Invitations will be sent electronically in the coming weeks.

*Save the Date*

2021 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

*Driven to Serve*

Sunday, April 25 | 10am - 2pm

JFS Parking Lot



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
DEDICATION & SERVICE

Rain date is May 2nd  
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW





2020 changed our world: Lives and livelihoods lost. Devastating destruction and unimagined challenges faced. Despite those obstacles, each day countless Americans answered the call to serve. You raised your hands. Stood up. Showed up. And volunteered to put their neighbors and complete strangers first. To help make America safer and healthier, more fair, and more just.

AmeriCorps engages 270,000 Americans each year in sustained, results-driven service through AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs like RSVP. These dedicated citizens help communities impacted by COVID-19, ensure students stay on track to graduate, combat hunger and homelessness, respond to natural disasters, fight the opioid epidemic, help seniors live independently, support veterans and military families, and much more.

This AmeriCorps Week (March 7-13) join with us as we celebrate the impact of our programs and offer our thanks to each and every one for volunteering to serve others. Together, we can help the country recover and come back stronger.

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## **New Volunteer Software: OnCorps**

Over the past several months RSVP has been in the process of transitioning to a new volunteer software called OnCorps. OnCorps will let you submit your own volunteer hours as you have in the past, however, a new feature is that it will also let you see your own volunteer profile, so you can make sure your address and personal information are up to date. You can also add in which languages you speak! Our hope is that OnCorps will make keeping your information and hours accurate easier for us – and for you!

We will be reaching out soon with information on how to use the volunteer portal. If you have any technical issues or questions, please reach out to Julie Cramer-Le at [jcramer@jfsmetrowest.org](mailto:jcramer@jfsmetrowest.org)

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## Medicare's Coverage of Care at Home

**Home health care** includes a wide range of health and social services delivered in your home to treat illness or injury. If you qualify for the home health benefit, Medicare covers:

**Skilled nursing services** provided up to seven days per week for generally no more than eight hours per day and 28 hours per week

**Skilled therapy services**, such as physical, speech, and occupation therapy

**Home health aide**, so long as you require skilled care as well

**Medical social services** to help with social or emotional concerns related to your illness

**Certain medical supplies**, such as wound dressings and catheters

**Certain durable medical equipment (DME)**, such as a wheelchair or walker

Note: Medicare should pay for these services regardless of whether your condition is temporary or chronic and regardless of whether your condition is improving or not.

### Medicare will cover your home health care if:

1. You are homebound, meaning it is extremely difficult for you to leave your home and you need help doing so.

Due to the coronavirus public health emergency, the homebound requirement can be met in additional ways. You can be considered homebound if your physician certifies that you cannot leave your home because you are at risk of medical complications if you go outside, or if you have a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

2. You need skilled nursing services on an intermittent basis and and/or skilled therapy care. Skilled therapy refers to physical, speech, and occupational therapy.

You cannot qualify for Medicare home health coverage if you only need occupational therapy. However, if you need other skilled services as well, you could also receive occupational therapy.

3. You have a face-to-face meeting with your doctor within the 90 days before you start home health care, or the 30 days after the first day you receive care. This meeting can be facilitated by technology such as video conferencing.
  4. Your doctor signs a home health certification confirming that you are homebound and need intermittent skilled care. The certification must also state that your doctor has approved a plan of care for you and that the face-to-face meeting requirement was met. Your doctor should review and, if needed, recertify your home health plan every 60 days.
  5. You receive care from a Medicare-certified home health agency (HHA). If you need help finding a Medicare-approved HHA, call 1-800-MEDICARE. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, contact your plan for a list of in-network HHAs.
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## Medicare's Coverage of Care at Home Continued

### How else can I receive more of my care at home?

**Telehealth:** Medicare generally only covers telehealth in limited situations but has expanded coverage and access during the public health emergency. Medicare covers your hospital and doctors' office visits, preventive screenings, and other visits via telehealth in settings that include your home. Telehealth services can also be used for the face-to-face visits required for home health care and hospice care. Standard cost-sharing may apply. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you should contact your plan to learn about its costs and coverage rules. Certain telehealth services can now be delivered using only audio, including:

- Counseling and therapy provided by an opioid treatment program
- Behavioral health care services
- Patient evaluation and management

**Mail order prescription drugs:** Many Part D plans and Medicare Advantage Plans may offer a mail order option to deliver your medications to your home. Contact your prescription drug plan to see if this service is available and what rules may apply. You can also ask your pharmacy if it offers a home delivery service for prescription drugs.

**Physician's services in the home:** Part B covers services you receive from a physician (or other provider, such as a registered nurse) who visits your home. Part B also covers some services that are not provided face-to-face with a doctor, such as check-in phone calls and assessments using an online patient portal. Virtual check-ins can be used to assess whether you should go to your doctor's office for an in-person visit.

### How can I recognize and prevent home health care fraud?

Home health care fraud can take many forms. You might be enrolled in home health services by a doctor you do not know, offered things like "free" groceries from a home health agency in exchange for your Medicare number, or switched to a different home health agency. You might also notice that Medicare was billed for home health services that were not provided or that were not deemed medically necessary by your doctor. You can avoid experiencing home health care fraud with the following tips.

- Carefully read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) and/or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) to ensure they accurately reflect the services you received.
- Work with your doctor to enroll in home health services and determine your plan of care; do not enroll in home health services with a doctor you do not know.
- Do not accept gifts like money or groceries in return for home health services.

If you suspect Medicare fraud or errors, contact your Senior Medicare Patrol, or SMP, and report your concerns.

**If you have any questions, contact the Essex County SHIP at  
973-637-1717 or [medicarehelp@jfsmetrowest.org](mailto:medicarehelp@jfsmetrowest.org).**

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## RSVP Center of Essex & Hudson Counties



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# AmeriCorps

*RSVP Center of Essex and Hudson Counties is a comprehensive community service organization through Jewish Family Service of MetroWest New Jersey designed to mobilize members of the community who are 55 years of age and older in giving back to their own neighborhoods through volunteer service. At every age, at every stage, Jewish Family Service is here to help, offering over 40 programs and services to benefit every member of the family.*

*RSVP is part of the AmeriCorps family. AmeriCorps, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. Learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov](http://AmeriCorps.gov).*

## SAVE THE DATE **WELCOME TO MEDICARE**

APRIL 7, 2021 | 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET



Learn about signing up for Medicare! Registration for this free event opens in February. Visit [www.shiphelp.org](http://www.shiphelp.org) to learn more.

This virtual Medicare fair is for **people new to Medicare**. Learn about Medicare – and all its parts - to assist you in your initial enrollment decisions.

Get **trusted, unbiased Medicare education** to help you make Medicare choices that best meet your needs.

There will be **national expert presenters** on Medicare eligibility, enrollment, and coverage options. There will also be **experts from your state** health insurance assistance program to answer your individual questions.

### JFS Volunteer Services Staff Contact Information

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