

## Medicare

Medicare is health insurance funded by the federal government. There is a lot to know about Medicare. For information, call the Medicare Choices Helpline at 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227). Ask that a copy of the Medicare guide be mailed to you. You can also find out about Medicare on the Internet at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

To be “eligible” for Medicare means:

- You are 65 years or older. You must also be eligible for Social Security or Railroad Retirement Benefits, or
- You must be disabled for life and you have received Social Security Disability Insurance payments for at least 24 months, or
- You have end stage renal disease needing transplant or dialysis.

To apply for medicare, call the Social Security Administration. The number is 1-800-772-1213. Call 3 months before you turn age 65. Don’t wait any longer than 3 months after your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday to call. If you receive social security payments, you should automatically get a Medicare card, but don’t take a chance. Call the Social Security Administration as mentioned above.