

## **MEDICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF LINCOLN (MAP)**

MAP began in July 2003 with a three year grant from the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln [CHE]. The goal of MAP is to help low income individuals access free or discounted medications

### **Who qualifies for MAP?**

MAP advocates work with all Lancaster County human services agencies and physician offices. Our goal is to serve all clients who meet the pharmaceutical companies' guidelines. Generally that means making \$19,000 or less as a single person or \$25,000 or less as a family. To receive free medications they cannot have any health care prescription coverage. We also help clients who do not meet these requirements access discounted medications.

### **How does it work?**

Individuals who need assistance call a MAP advocate who will conduct a brief phone interview. If they qualify the client will be asked to make an appointment and provide the financial documentation required by each individual pharmaceutical company.

MAP advocates work with the client's physician to order the medications.

It takes up to two months to get the free medications and the process must be repeated every three months. However, once the client is on the patient assistance program there should be no delay in getting the medications refilled

### **What does the client do while they wait for their medications to arrive?**

MAP has an emergency fund available and we often provide a one-time assist with medications for emergency situations. Each year MAP spends between \$12,000 and \$15,000 from our emergency crisis fund.

### **How has MAP impacted our community?**

MAP advocates enroll all General Assistance clients into patient assistance programs. General Assistance is a Lancaster County tax supported program. MAP has saved the county tax payers over \$1 million in medication costs each year. In addition MAP has helped their clients improve their general health, avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and in many cases helped them continue to work and, therefore, stay off of governmental assistance programs.

MAP advocates work with all physician offices in Lancaster County to provide this service. MAP is strictly funded by grants and private donations. If you would like more information or would like to know how you can help please contact the LCMS office at 483-4800.