

# A Few Words on Partnerships

## Forming Partnerships to Integrate Your SMP into the Community

There is power in numbers. Partnerships allow members to combine resources and become more powerful than when each member acts alone.

Other benefits include:

- Access to greater expertise and credibility
- Access to a broader base (for example, combined mailing lists)
- Better access to policy makers and decision makers through a united voice
- Greater exposure. Gain the potential to provide media attention and public profiles that member groups may not be able to achieve alone
- Conserve resources for each member organization. In today's world we all know how important that is.

## Identifying Players

To form a successful partnership you need to recruit the right people. You want people who are willing to advocate to the top of his/her organization to eliminate fraud, waste and abuse within the health care system.

Where to begin:

- Identify your mission
- Identify the gaps – the things you cannot do yourself
- Network, network, network – use your networking capacity to the fullest
- Anticipate: What's in it for them?
- Start with people you know – brainstorm agencies most affected by Medicare/Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse

***All SMP contracted partners, including the MT SMP Program Manager, should identify and connect with local partners who can co-present, help disseminate information, sponsor events, etc. Examples include presenting to seniors about medical identity theft along with local law enforcement or adult protective services; having local food banks distribute flyers with meals; tabling at a related event; asking for help covering incidentals like food or room costs from partners such as AARP.***