

Vermont State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

A Program of the Vermont Area Agencies on Aging, Funded by CMS

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SHIP is a volunteer-based organization. The Vermont SHIP is in the process of revamping its volunteer program, which will have more than 50 volunteers statewide. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ms. Judith Crawford, SHIP Program Director, at 1-800-642-5119.



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

Profile information maintained by the
SHIP Resource Center
Phone: 1-800-253-7154
E-mail: SHIPresourcecenter@air.org

What Is a SHIP?

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program, or SHIP, is a Federal grant program that helps States enhance and support a network of local programs, staff, and volunteers. Through one-on-one personalized counseling, education, and outreach, this network of resources provides accurate and objective information and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries and their families. This allows the recipients to better understand and utilize their Medicare benefits.

SHIPs help beneficiaries identify and understand programs and plans, including Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare supplemental insurance policies, Medicare Savings Programs, long-term care insurance and financing, and other public and private health insurance coverage options. SHIPs also assist eligible participants in enrolling in these programs and plans.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

SHIP Name: Vermont State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

SHIP Director:

Ms. Judith Crawford

Program Phone Number:

1-800-642-5119

Program Address:

481 Summer Street

Suite 101

St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

SHIP Web Address:

<http://www.medicarehelpvt.net>

State Hosting Agency/Location Within the Agency:

The Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and

Independent Living (DAIL) is the State's CMS SHIP

grantee. DAIL subgrants SHIP program management and operations to the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont (NEVAAA), which has responsibility for all statewide, local, and regional SHIP operations. NEVAAA subcontracts with Vermont's Area Agencies on Aging to deliver local and regional SHIP services.

Approximate Number of Beneficiaries Served for Grant Year 2007

(April 1, 2007–March 31, 2008): 116,797

Number of Beneficiaries Served per 1,000 Beneficiaries in State for Grant Year 2007

(April 1, 2007–March 31, 2008): 1219.1



BIOGRAPHY OF SHIP DIRECTOR Ms. JUDITH CRAWFORD

Ms. Crawford has served as the Vermont SHIP director for the past 9 years. She is responsible for all facets of the program's performance. During her tenure, she has overseen the expansion of the program to more than double its original size and has helped the Vermont SHIP become a nationally recognized program.

Ms. Crawford also has served in leadership roles beyond her work in leading Vermont SHIP. She cofacilitates the MMA Task Force Work Group with Brendan Hogan, the deputy commissioner of DAIL, and has served in a leadership capacity with the national SHIP program. For 3 years she served as chair of the SHIP Steering Committee. Prior to her work as steering committee chair, Ms. Crawford served as a member of the 1-800-MEDICARE and SHIP Program Standards subcommittees.

SHIP HIGHLIGHT

In March 2008, Vermont SHIP was chosen as one of four national SHIPs to participate in the Collaborative State Project sponsored by the Health Assistance Partnership (HAP), a subsidiary of Families U.S.A. Local program staff are working with HAP to create a new volunteer model for Vermont, leading to the recruitment and training of additional volunteer counselors who will be available to assist SHIP staff during the Medicare prescription drug open enrollment period each year. HAP program staff will help Vermont SHIP define specific roles for volunteers, including outreach, counseling, data entry, and partnership development.

LOCAL SHIP PROGRAMS

Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont

481 Summer Street, Suite 101
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Central Vermont Council on Aging

30 Washington Street
Barre, VT 05641

Champlain Valley Council on Aging

76 Pearl Street, Suite 201
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

East Ridge Professional Building, Unit 2B
Rutland, VT 05701

Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont

56 Main Street, Suite 304
Springfield, VT 05156

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Vermont's MMA Work Group has been a focal point for much of the SHIP's success in delivering new/expanded Medicare benefits and was established as a result of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. Members of this statewide work group include:

- ◆ The Office of Governor James Douglas
- ◆ The Office of Lt. Governor Brian E. Dubie
- ◆ The Office of U.S. Representative Peter Welch
- ◆ The Office of U.S. Senator Bernard Sanders
- ◆ The Office of U.S. Senator Patrick J. Leahy
- ◆ Central Vermont Home Health
- ◆ Community of Vermont Elders
- ◆ Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
- ◆ Department of Children and Families, Economic Services Division

- ◆ Vermont Legal Aid
- ◆ Vermont Legislative Council
- ◆ Vermont Medical Society
- ◆ Vermont Medicare Access Network
- ◆ Vermont Psychiatric Survivors

We're on the Web!
www.SHIPtalk.org

Local Help for People
With Medicare