

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) & Medicare Improvement for Patients & Provider Assistance Program (MIPPA)

SHIP Grant Information

This grant is a federal grant, passed down through the State each year, with a grant year of 1 October through 30 September. Prior to 2014/2015 grant year, Dane County only collected data when assisting clients with health insurance issues through the Elder Benefit Specialists (EBS). The amount of our SHIP grant in 2013/2014 was \$500, which provided training money for EBS each year. With the addition of a third EBS and better data tracking, our grant increased to \$5,000 in 2014/2015. Dane County has always provided SHIP assistance through our Focal Point Case Management Program, but this data had never been captured. It was decided to provide four Focal Points (Colonial Club, EMMCA, SMCE, and Waunakee) with \$1,250 stipends to collect data about the time they spent working with clients on health insurance issues. As a result, we saw a dramatic increase in data collection and were awarded \$10,000 in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017. This allowed us to provide eight Focal Points (Colonial Club, DeForest, EMMCA, Fitchburg, McFarland, NESCO, SMCE, and Waunakee) with \$1,250 stipends in 2015/2016. While the number of Focal Points collecting data increased, data did not increase significantly. Thus in 2016, it was decided to award the money based upon data collection effort. Therefore in the current 2016/2017 grant year, four Focal Points have been awarded \$2,500 stipends for this purpose (Colonial Club, EMMCA, NESCO, and Waunakee).

Over the past three grant cycles, we have documented 6,668 contacts (phone, in-person visits at Focal Points, and in-home visits) with persons regarding health insurance issues. We have collectively provided 7,719 hours of health insurance counseling, application assistance, enrollment, and problem resolution sessions to persons age 60 and over across Dane County. This is the equivalent of having 3.5 full-time staff working just on this issue across several Focal Points.

MIPPA Grant Information

In April 2104, we were awarded a three year grant, at \$20,000 each year, to provide outreach to seniors for the purpose of increasing the number of older adults taking advantage of the Low-income Subsidy (LIS) and Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) available to help lower income seniors offset the costs associated with Medicare and Medicare Part D costs. Outreach regarding Medicare Preventive Services afforded by the Affordable Care Act legislation was required as part of the grant. This afforded Dane County the opportunity to employee an eight hour per week experienced Case Manager to provide outreach required by the grant. Further, it allowed for two additional Focal Points to collect SHIP data with a \$2,500 stipend (Northwest Dane Senior Services and SW Dane Senior Outreach).

Results over the course of the past three years include:

- 826 hours of public outreach activities and events
- 99 public presentations reaching 1,315 people
- 17 exhibits at health fairs reaching 885 people
- 15 enrollment partnership events (started in 2017) resulting in 17 enrollments in LIS and/or MAPP
- 19 electronic media activities reaching 566 people
- 172 print media activities reaching 70,549 people