



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 26, 2007
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**DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES OFFERING FREE ASSISTANCE
TO MEDICARE PART D RECIPIENTS
Deadline for enrollment is December 31, 2007**

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division for Aging Services (DAS), is providing guidance to Medicare Part D beneficiaries free of charge as individuals try to meet the December 31, 2007, deadline for enrollment or reenrollment in the program.

The SHIP volunteers regularly offer one-on-one Medicare assistance at many of the Senior Centers throughout Nevada. Personal phone assistance and walk-in assistance is available by appointment at the Las Vegas SHIP Office.

The services have been offered at no cost to consumers thanks to a grant obtained from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). The CMS Performance Award Grant increased minimal funding for the program by \$7,768, and was based on SHIP's overall performance ranking of 23rd in the United States. The award was presented on December 12 during a Commission on Aging scheduled meeting.

The Performance Award Grant from CDC, in combination with previously received federal funding, is helping to support SHIP strategies to enhance and expand local educational and assistance services for people on Medicare. Last year, the SHIP program assisted more than 10,000 beneficiaries.

SHIP Director Jeannie Pearce said, "We very much appreciate the additional grant funding which will be used to increase support at local SHIP counseling locations. As Director, I am grateful for the dedicated and professional services our volunteers and staff have provided Medicare recipients as they weave their way through the enrollment process."

For more information about obtaining services from SHIP, please call (702) 486-3478 in Las Vegas, the statewide toll free number, 1-800-307-4444, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, or go to http://www.nvaging.net/ship/ship_main.htm.

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