

# YOU ARE INVITED!



## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS



**Enjoy volunteering & taking on a new challenge?**

Become a certified SHIP/CHOICES counselor in your community and be the expert on all things Medicare!

As a certified counselor, you will guide your peers through their healthcare options, helping them make informed, unbiased decisions for healthier living.

**Join us and make a difference!**

**Sign Up Today & Lead Your Community to  
Better Health!**

**Contact the Katie Wheeler at the SHIP program  
at 203-814-3639 to get started!**



# SHIP

State Health Insurance  
Assistance Program

### Benefits of Becoming a SHIP/CHOICES Counselor

- ✓ **Empowerment Through Knowledge:** Gain in-depth knowledge of Medicare and Medicaid, to guide peers with confidence.
- ✓ **Be the Trusted Expert:** Offer seamless support and become a go-to resource in your community.
- ✓ **Feel Challenged:** We learn something new every day. Medicare is complicated, help others understand it.
- ✓ **Promote Healthy Living:** Help others make choices that enhance their well-being.
- ✓ **Boost Your Career:** Enhance your skills and credentials for professional growth.
- ✓ **Give back to your Community**

**Just to mention a few...**

# Training Schedule 2026

## Training Session 1: Spring

**Application Deadline: Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Orientation (VIRTUAL): Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Self-paced Modules (VIRTUAL): Tuesday March 10-Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Live Training (IN PERSON): April 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**

## Training Session 2: Fall

**Application Deadline: Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Orientation (VIRTUAL): Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Self-paced Modules (VIRTUAL): Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup>-Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Live Training (IN PERSON): September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- ✓ CHOICES trainings are free for volunteers and \$125 for in-kind (paid professionals).
- ✓ We are offering a mix of virtual and in person options, as noted above.
- ✓ Training participants must complete an orientation session, self-paced training modules, three training days, sign an MOU and take an online certification exam.
- ✓ Training topics include: The parts of Medicare, Medigap, eligibility, coverage, costs, appeals, coordination of benefits, transitions, & cost assistance programs.
- ✓ Expectations of counselors include: Willingness to learn, assist beneficiaries through Medicare Planfinder tool and other tools & resources, assist in the application of cost assistance programs, report counseling sessions and attend two update trainings per year.
- ✓ Please note individuals who may have a conflict of interest such as insurance agents are unable to participate.