

September 2026 MIPPA & BEC Peer-to-Peer TA Call

Partnerships & Sustainability through Open Enrollment

Wednesday, September 9th, 2026
2:00-3:00pm ET

In this month's peer-to-peer call, we will hear from MIPPA and BEC partners about their experiences and insights leveraging partnerships to maximize and sustain enrollment services. From outreach strategies to community collaboration to working with varying client populations, our speakers will share best practices and challenges that continue to shape their approach. After the presentation, we will host regional breakout room discussions to exchange ideas on effective strategies to apply during the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) and beyond.

[Click here to Register](#)

Meet Our Presenters



Tim Smolen is the Program Manager at SHIBA, part of the Consumer Protection Division of the Washington State Office of Insurance Commissioner. A big fan of the Medicare program, he is grateful for the opportunity to be of service and eager to learn more about how he can help people to take care of themselves in the ways that matter most to them. Current priorities for the SHIBA program are: recruit and train more volunteer advisors, enhance outreach to traditionally underserved communities, improve partnerships with organizations that support people with the greatest social and economic needs, and foster collaborative partnerships with Tribes and professionals who serve Native Elders and people with disabilities.



Betsy Smith is the Vice Executive Director of Elder of Law Michigan. She joined the organization in 2019 as the MiCAFE Network Shareholder and Partner Manager, leading our outreach, training, recruitment, and educational initiatives for MiCAFE Network Partners and stakeholders, helping expand access to benefits across as well as working directly with clients resolving issues with submitted applications and screening for benefits available to seniors in Michigan. Betsy has decades of leadership experience, a dedication to serving others, and a strong commitment to strengthening community partnerships, making her a valuable resource for the MiCAFE Network and the individuals and organizations it serves.



Darling Garcia is the Executive Director of Elder Law of Michigan, where she joined in 2013. Ms. Garcia brings extensive knowledge and experience with assisting clients with applying for public benefits. She oversees the MiCAFE program and other ELM initiatives intended to help low-income Michigan seniors achieve and preserve their economic security. She understands the importance of facilitating collaborative partnerships to expand our network throughout Michigan to reach and educate seniors about benefits, screen for eligibility, and assist them in overcoming barriers to completing applications. Before joining Elder Law, she worked as an attorney handling cases in family law, elder law, consumer law, and public benefits.

