

**SHIPs Provide Critical Services to**

**Medicare Beneficiaries in [State]**

**[note: could use state program name rather than SHIP]**

**SHIPs in [state] provide a network of free, unbiased, reliable, and personalized health benefits information.**

* In [state], SHIPs help Medicare beneficiaries make choices among a vast array of options that include an average of more than XX prescription drug plans, XX Medicare Advantage plans, as well as [various or XX] Medigap supplemental insurance policies.
* In [state], SHIPs also provide assistance with Medicare [include what’s appropriate and add more related to MEDICARE assistance: fraud and abuse issues, billing problems, appeal rights, and enrollment in low-income assistance programs].
* In [state], client contacts have increased by XX**%** since (year). In 2016, the (state) SHIP had XXXclient contacts. Increases have ranged from X-XX% a year.

**SHIPs in [state] provide community educational efforts and enrollment events.**

* In [state], SHIP hosted XX enrollment events and XX outreach events to assist Medicare beneficiaries and their families in 2016.

**SHIPs in [state] provided assistance to beneficiaries in greatest need, including those with disabilities and those facing language and cultural barriers.**

* In [state], XX% of SHIP contacts served beneficiaries with incomes below 150% of federal poverty level.
* In [state], XX% of SHIP contacts served beneficiaries with disabilities.
* In [state], XX% of SHIP contacts served beneficiaries that speak English as a second language.

**SHIPs provide critical resources and expertise to federal partners.**

* The Social Security Administration, CMS, 1-800-Medicare, Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, local and state agencies and Congressional representatives and staff refer beneficiaries to SHIP. They include SHIPs in their websites, publications and correspondence to beneficiaries as the source of assistance when individuals need one-on-one assistance.
* In [state], XX% client contacts were referred from federal partners. *(for state calculations= Client Contact Forms coded CMS, state specific mailings and ”other” agency)*

**Defunding SHIPs would harm Medicare beneficiaries in [state].**

* Defunding SHIPs would mean XXX beneficiaries in [state] and 7 million beneficiaries nationwide would no longer have access to free, unbiased, personalized Medicare counseling services.
* Defunding SHIPs would increase out-of-pocket costs to Medicare beneficiaries in [state]. In 2016, [state]’s SHIP helped clients save over **$XX million**.
* Defunding SHIPs would mean elimination of resources to recruit, train and organize volunteers that are crucial to SHIPs’ reach and one-on-one efforts. In [state], volunteers gave **XXX** hours to serve beneficiaries through SHIP in 2016. SHIP volunteers donated time valued over **$XXX** to helping Medicare beneficiaries (volunteer time valued at $24.14 per hour in 2016).



**SHIP Successes in [STATE]**

Include client success stories, testimonials