



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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BARNSTABLE COUNTY'S SHINE PROGRAM RECEIVES \$25K COMMUNITY BENEFITS GRANT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. May 19, 2016 – Barnstable County's SHINE program (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) received a \$25,000 Community Benefits grant from Cape Cod Healthcare to support health insurance counseling and assistance to Barnstable County residents. SHINE is a grant funded program administered by the Barnstable County Department of Human Services.

The Regional SHINE program utilizes a network of 50 highly trained counselors who work 1:1 with seniors, people with disabilities and their families to explain Medicare options, compare the costs and benefits of Medicare and other health insurance options, and enroll individuals in the most beneficial health insurance program. SHINE is an important local resource that provides Medicare beneficiaries accurate information in order to better understand the complexities of private and public health insurance. According to Sheila Curtis, SHINE Regional Program Manager, *"This CCHC grant provides needed funding for outreach to the Cape and Islands population groups often underserved because of disability and/or income insecurity. There are over 70,000 people on Medicare in Barnstable County and many of those who seek assistance are often vulnerable frail elders; the majority is females living alone. In addition, each day there are thousands of baby boomers who are turning 65, now eligible for Medicare and need comprehensive assistance with the many health options that are available in Massachusetts. Last year, The Cape and Islands SHINE program assisted over 6,900 individuals and all SHINE services are free of charge"*.

SHINE counselors are available throughout the region at local councils on aging, Community Health Centers and at the Regional Office. SHINE services are free of charge. For more information, see attached brochure, visit <http://www.bchumanservices.net/programs/shine>, or contact SHINE at SHINE@barnstablecounty.org, 508-375-6762, 508-362-5885 TTY.

Each year, Cape Cod Healthcare's (CCHC) Community Benefits program (<http://www.capecodhealth.org/about/caring-for-our-community>) awards grants to community organizations that address the unmet health needs of financially disadvantaged and underserved populations of Barnstable County.

The Mission of the Department of Human Services is to plan, develop, and implement programs which enhance the overall delivery of human services in Barnstable County and promote the health and social well-being of County residents through regional efforts that improve coordination of services.

SHINE is administered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs in partnership with elder service agencies, councils on aging, and other public and private community-based organizations. SHINE is a State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and is partially funded by the Federal Administration for Community Living. The Cape and Islands Regional SHINE program is also funded by Barnstable County.

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