



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana Senior Health Insurance Information Program Helps Medicare Beneficiaries Save Nearly \$4 Million in 2012

The Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) reports that the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) assisted 43,315 Medicare beneficiaries in Louisiana, helping them save \$3,887,384 in medical expenses in 2012.

“These numbers prove SHIIP to be a very valuable resource for senior citizens, people with disabilities and their families,” said Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon. “SHIIP helps beneficiaries navigate the often confusing Medicare information, enabling them to make wise decisions regarding their Medicare coverage, as well as provide information on programs that can help lower their drug costs.”

SHIIP staff and volunteer counselors are committed to helping beneficiaries make informed decisions by providing free and unbiased Medicare insurance counseling and assistance. This is accomplished through outreach in communities statewide in face-to-face meetings, public education presentations, over the telephone and email correspondence.

In an effort to spread the word about SHIIP, the Department of Insurance has released a 30-minute educational video entitled “[SHIIP- Lighting the Way to Medicare](#).” The video explains how consumers can benefit from SHIIP services and walks seniors through some of the basics of Medicare.

It also provides information on how to become involved as a SHIIP volunteer counselor. LDI developed the SHIIP Volunteer Team to increase their capacity to educate and counsel Medicare beneficiaries. SHIIP counselors can serve their community as counselors, recruiters, educators, administrators and marketers.

The video can be accessed through the LDI’s SHIIP website at www.ldi.la.gov/SHIIP. To contact SHIIP counselors, or to learn about the volunteer program, please call the LDI at 1-800-259-5300.