

SHIBA facts

69,490

Consumers we educate statewide

33,556

Consumers we assist with one-on-one counseling

1,599

Outreach events we hold in communities across the state

1,269

Advertising events statewide

16

Sponsor agencies that serve all counties

267

Volunteers we manage statewide

Our mission

SHIBA provides free, unbiased information about health care coverage and access to help improve the lives of all Washington state residents. We cultivate community commitment through partnership, service and volunteering.

Let us help you! Call SHIBA in your local community



About us

Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA)

www.insurance.wa.gov/shiba
1-800-562-6900 (statewide)



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Who we are

SHIBA is part of the Washington state Office of the Insurance Commissioner's consumer protection services. We provide free, unbiased and confidential help with Medicare and health care choices.

One of 54 state health insurance programs (SHIP) in the U.S., SHIBA was the very first program in the nation. We've been in operation since 1979.

Our team's an education and referral system

We're made up of:

- Community volunteer advisors
- Local sponsoring agencies
- Office of the Insurance Commissioner staff
- Other government agencies and community partners

How our volunteer advisors help consumers

- Assess health care coverage needs.
- Determine general eligibility for health care coverage programs.
- Evaluate and compare Medicare plans and programs.
- Provide enrollment help with Medicare.
- Speak with 1-800 Medicare on clients' behalf.
- Make referrals to other agencies and programs.
- Collect and report possible Medicare fraud complaints.

Who we serve

- All ages and backgrounds
- People with disabilities and specific diseases
- Seniors and pre-retirees
- Ethnic and multilingual populations
- Uninsured people
- Rural populations
- People with low income

