



Mass Home Care

PLEASE ADD \$1 MILLION TO FY21 BUDGET TO SUPPORT THE MASSACHUSETTS SHINE PROGRAM

What is SHINE?

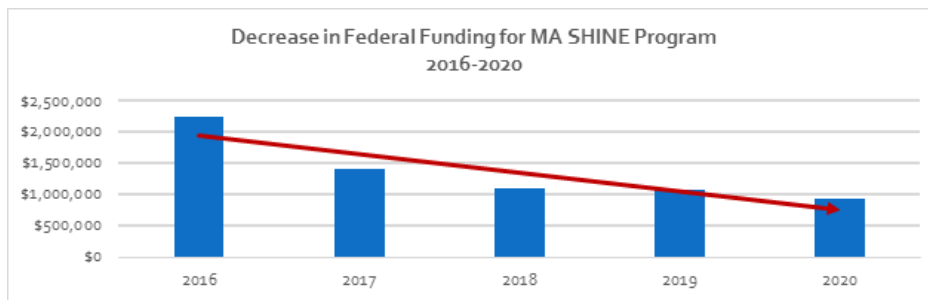
- Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone (SHINE) is a state health insurance assistance program that provides **free** health insurance information, counseling and assistance to Massachusetts residents and their caregivers.
- The SHINE Program is administered by Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) in partnership with local, community based organizations including the ASAPs, AAAs, and Councils on Aging (COAs).
- SHINE counselors are trained and certified by the EOEA who assist older adults and individuals with disabilities in understanding their Medicare and MassHealth benefits, along with other health insurance options.
- They also review eligibility for Public Assistance programs such as the new Medicare Savings Program, Prescription Advantage, and other programs to assist beneficiaries with limited resources to pay for health care costs.

Facts and Figures about the SHINE Program

- In FY18, 75,455 consumers received SHINE support provided by **662 volunteers who serve as SHINE counselors for the program.**
- According to data included in the FY18 report of the Massachusetts Legislature, EOEA estimates that **the total savings from SHINE In calendar year 2016 was \$105,116,080** (\$81 saved per beneficiary and \$1,687 saved per client served).

Why is this Request Needed?

- Since 2016, the federal funding the Commonwealth receives for the SHINE program has decreased every year, **reducing from \$2.2 million in 2016 to \$925,000 in 2020.**
- Program administrators struggle to cover their costs as demand for SHINE counseling services increases. With more managed care options for consumers than ever before, and **10,000 people reaching retirement age in our country every day**, the information and resources available through SHINE have never been more valuable.



Mass Home Care urges the Legislature to include \$1 million in the FY21 budget proposal line item #9110-1455 to support the Massachusetts SHINE Program. This request will enhance the reach of our SHINE counselors as they provide FREE local, trusted, and unbiased health insurance counseling information and assistance to residents throughout our Commonwealth!

If you have any questions regarding this request,
please contact Lisa Gurgone at 617-283-5903 or lgurgone@springwell.com.