



ABCD Press

From the Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Help Seniors Navigate Complicated World of Health Care

ABCD Program Seeks Volunteers for 'SHINE' Program

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) is calling on volunteers for the **SHINE** program: **Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders**. The ABCD program is designed to help seniors understand their Medicare bills and related insurance issues.

SHINE provides free health insurance information, counseling and assistance to Massachusetts residents with Medicare. SHINE counselors provide information on Medicare A & B, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, Medigap, Mass Health, Medicaid and other programs that help pay health care costs for people with limited income and resources.

Volunteers will complete a 12-day training program designed to familiarize them with healthcare systems that serve older residents. Upon completion, volunteers will answer telephone calls from seniors who have questions about their health coverage and what plan is right for them.

Interested persons can call Emily Shea, Director of ABCD Elder Services, at 617 348 6340. A background in health insurance is not required.

About ABCD:

ABCD serves more than 100,000 low-income Boston-area residents through its central offices and a decentralized network of Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs), Head Start centers, Family Planning sites and Foster Grandparent sites. Programs and affiliations include Fuel Assistance; Head Start; Child Care Services; Child Care Choices of Boston; Education; Career Development; Housing and Homelessness Services; Health Services; Family Planning; Urban College of Boston; University High – an Alternative High School; Ostiguy High School for high school students in recovery; Weatherization; Foster Grandparents; Elder Services; Intergenerational Programs; management of the Combined Federal Campaign, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and City of Boston employee giving campaigns; advocacy and consumer services.

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