



**PAT QUINN**  
 Governor  
**MICHAEL T. McRAITH**  
 Director

**Illinois Department of Insurance**

**NEWS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
 October 27, 2009

**CONTACTS:**  
 Anjali Julka (312) 814-0093  
 Louis G. Pukelis (312) 814-0778

**Illinois Department of Insurance Announces Free, One-on-One Medicare Counseling Services**

*Volunteers provide help with Medicare options in West Central Illinois; pre-registration required*

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Insurance’s Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) will provide free, one-on-one counseling services in West Central Illinois to help educate Medicare-eligible individuals and their caregivers about available insurance options. The Department is conducting a series of counseling sessions statewide to assist Medicare-eligible individuals with the Medicare open enrollment season, which runs this year from November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Pre-registration for appointments is required for all sessions by calling the Area Agency on Aging – Quincy at (800) 252-9027.** SHIP volunteers are also available year-round to answer Medicare questions. For a list of SHIP volunteers in your area please visit the [SHIP Web site](#) or call SHIP toll-free at (800) 548-9034.

The following are dates, times and locations for SHIP sessions in west central Illinois:

- |  |                     |  |
|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>November 16</b><br>9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | <b>Quincy</b>       | <b>Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center</b><br>639 York Street |
| <b>November 18</b><br>9 a.m.-3 p.m.    | <b>Pittsfield</b>   | <b>John Wood Community College Annex</b><br>1308 West Washington   |
| <b>November 19</b><br>9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | <b>Quincy</b>       | <b>Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center</b><br>639 York Street |
| <b>November 23</b><br>9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | <b>Mt. Sterling</b> | <b>John Wood Community College Annex</b><br>Buckhorn Road          |
| <b>November 24</b><br>9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | <b>Quincy</b>       | <b>Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center</b><br>639 York Street |

<b>December 1 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.</b>	<b>Hardin</b>	<b>Calhoun Elementary 52 Poor Farm Hollow Road</b>
<b>December 3 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Quincy</b>	<b>Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center 639 York Street</b>
<b>December 7 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</b>	<b>Carthage</b>	<b>Carl Sandburg College Education Commons 641 Buchanan Street</b>
<b>December 10 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Quincy</b>	<b>Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center 639 York Street</b>
<b>December 14 9 a.m.-12 p.m.</b>	<b>Rushville</b>	<b>Spoon River College Rushville Center 229 West Washington Street</b>
<b>December 16 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Quincy</b>	<b>Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center 639 York Street</b>
<b>December 21 9 a.m.-3 p.m.</b>	<b>Warsaw</b>	<b>Warsaw Public Library 1025 Webster Street</b>
<b>December 23 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Quincy</b>	<b>Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center 639 York Street</b>
<b>December 29 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Quincy</b>	<b>Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center 639 York Street</b>

Through its staff and a network of approximately 900 trained volunteers in more than 150 sites throughout the State, SHIP assists Illinoisans who have questions about or problems with:

- Medicare
- Medicare supplemental insurance
- Medicare Advantage Plans (HMO, PPO, and PFFS)
- Medicare claims and appeals
- Prescription drug coverage through Medicare and other sources
- Long term care insurance

Every SHIP office is volunteer-based and supported by local sponsoring organizations. In 2008 alone, SHIP volunteers provided over 35,000 hours of counseling, responded to more than 31,000 telephone calls, and saved Medicare beneficiaries an estimated \$11.8 million.

For more information about SHIP, including information about SHIP volunteers in your area, please visit the [SHIP Web site](#) or call the SHIP toll-free hotline at (800) 548-9034. You can also visit the Department of Insurance's Web site at [www.insurance.illinois.gov](http://www.insurance.illinois.gov) or call our toll-free hotline at (866) 445-5364.

###