

Medicare's Open Enrollment season is nearly here. From Oct. 15–Dec. 7, those with Medicare can evaluate the new benefits Medicare has to offer, and if they choose, make changes to their prescription or health coverage. Nebraska SHIIP counselors are available to assist those with Medicare with comparing their options for 2013.

There has never been a better time to find out about Medicare coverage. Whether a person has Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan, there are several new benefits, including lower prescription costs. People who take advantage of open enrollment may be able to save money and get improved coverage.

"Your health needs change from year to year. And, your prescription or health plan may change the benefits and costs each year, too. That's why it's important to evaluate your Medicare choices every year," said Alicia Jones, director of the Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP).

Jones who offered three ways for people to get help:

- Get one-on-one help from the Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). Call the SHIIP toll-free hotline at 800-234-7119 to make an appointment.
- Visit <http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan> to compare your current coverage with all of the available options in your area, and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.