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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Medicare Enrollment Season Is Here

SHIBA Counselors Are Ready to Help Central Oregon Residents



Bend, OR – October 20, 2025 – The annual Medicare Open Enrollment period has begun and the Council on Aging of Central Oregon’s free Medicare counseling services are standing by to assist. This year’s Open Enrollment runs through December 7, 2025, which is the critical time when Medicare beneficiaries can review their current health and prescription drug coverage and make changes for the upcoming year.

This year brings a major shift for Medicare Advantage options in Central Oregon. As of 2026, PacificSource Health Plans is the only remaining carrier offering Medicare Advantage plans in this region under current agreements. It’s important to note, however, that this change pertains only to Medicare Advantage and related supplemental plans.

Traditional Medicare (Parts A and B) remains fully covered and unchanged for all beneficiaries.

If you're affected by changes to your Medicare Advantage plan, or if you simply want to ensure your Medicare coverage fits your needs for 2026, our State Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) volunteers are here to help. This program provides free, unbiased one-on-one counseling, helping you make sense of your Medicare options and select the coverage that best meets your health and financial situation. Our volunteer counselors can provide guidance on:

- Medicare Part A and Part B enrollment and benefits
- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Medicare Part D)
- Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)
- Medicare Advantage Plans (HMOs and PPOs)
- Long-term care insurance considerations
- Medicare Savings Programs (QMB, SLMB and QI)
- Prescription drug assistance programs and drug discount cards
- Recognizing and avoiding Medicare scams and fraud

To schedule a phone or in-person appointment with a SHIBA volunteer, or to learn more, please contact the Council on Aging at (541) 678-5483 or visit www.councilonaging.org. The Council on Aging can provide Medicare counseling in Spanish using translation services and a Spanish-speaking volunteer.

[About the Council on Aging of Central Oregon](#)

Since 1975, the Council on Aging of Central Oregon (CoA) has served as the designated Area Agency on Aging for Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties, offering adults aged 60 and older and their loved ones a range of support services. CoA advocates for, empowers, and guides older adults and their loved ones to live with independence and well-being. To find out more about the Council on Aging of Central Oregon, visit www.councilonaging.org or call (541) 678-5483.

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