

# Keeping Medicare Affordable in Louisiana

Every day, the [Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act](#) (MIPPA) helps people with Medicare afford their prescriptions, premiums, and doctor visits.

## Who MIPPA Helps in Louisiana

**45,347** Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

**356,138** Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500  
(150% of the federal poverty level)



### Mr. and Mrs. David's Story

The Davids lived on less than \$1,600 a month. The couple depended on a Medicare Savings Program and the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy to help pay their health care premiums and co-pays. But when Mrs. David passed away, Mr. David was told the benefits were terminated. In grief and not sure what to do, he struggled on a reduced income for many months. Then he heard an ad for the state SHIP. He called and a counselor discovered what had happened. Mr. David was re-approved for the benefits.

## What MIPPA Does

-  Connects eligible individuals to benefits like the Medicare Savings Program and Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy, which help pay for prescription drugs, premiums, and copays
-  Promotes preventive health services and screenings
-  Keeps older adults healthy and out of hospitals

## Potential Medicare Savings through MIPPA

One of the main components of MIPPA is to connect eligible Medicare Beneficiaries to programs to help them afford prescription drugs through Medicare Part D. Research shows that having prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D could reduce hospitalization rates by 7%.<sup>1</sup> With an average Medicare hospital stay costing \$14,700,<sup>2</sup> connecting individuals to prescription drug coverage could create significant health care savings for both the patient and the government.

## How MIPPA is Delivered in Louisiana

- 1 [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)
- 6 [Area Agencies on Aging](#)
- 1 [Benefits Enrollment Center](#)

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans



## Learn More



[BenefitsCheckUp.org](https://www.benefitscheckup.org)

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\* Data from 10/1/23 to 9/30/24 from SHIP Tracking and Reporting System and BenefitsCheckUp

<sup>1</sup> Afendulis CC, He Y, Zaslavsky AM, Chernew ME. The impact of Medicare Part D on hospitalization rates. *Health Serv Res*. 2011 Aug;46(4):1022-38. doi: 10.1111/j.1475-6773.2011.01244.x. Epub 2011 Feb 9. PMID: 21306369; PMCID: PMC3165176.

<sup>2</sup> Moore BJ, Liang L. Medicare Advantage Versus the Traditional Medicare Program: Costs of Inpatient Stays, 2009–2017. 2020 Aug 4. In: *Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) Statistical Briefs* [Internet]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); 2006 Feb-. Statistical Brief #262.