

# Keeping Medicare Affordable in Montana

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 Montana

**17,996** Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

**68,858** Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500  
(150% of the federal poverty level)



### Jackie's Story

Jackie, 81, had recently lost her daughter in a car accident. In addition to experiencing profound grief, she was facing a financial crisis. Her daughter had supported her for many years, supplementing the \$9,600 per year she received in Social Security. Her daughter had paid her Medicare supplemental insurance and Part D plan. Working with a benefits counselor, Jackie discovered she was eligible for multiple programs, including Medicare Savings Programs, Medicare Part D Extra Help, and more. In the end, Jackie saved over \$16,000 thanks to these programs, more than double her annual income.

## 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 Montana

- 1 [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)
- 10 [Area Agencies on Aging](#)



### How to Access Benefits Online

BenefitsCheckUp is a free tool where individuals can see if they may be eligible for these money-saving programs.

## Learn More



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

800-794-6559

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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.