

# Keeping Medicare Affordable in West Virginia

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 West Virginia

**36,832** Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

**142,939** Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500

(150% of the federal poverty level)



### Amelia's Story

Amelia reached out to a benefits counselor on behalf of her parents who had completed their annual renewal for the Medicare Savings Program. When Amelia checked their status, she saw her parents were incorrectly denied for being over the asset limit. She tried contacting the local Medicaid office but was unable to resolve the issue. The benefits counselor helped set up contact with the state Medicaid office. Upon review, it was determined that Amelia's parents' assets were evaluated incorrectly, and they were reapproved for the program.

## 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 West Virginia

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

### Learn More



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

800-794-6559



### How to Access Benefits Online

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

For more information, contact:

Natalie Zellner

571-527-3953

[Natalie.zellner@ncoa.org](mailto:Natalie.zellner@ncoa.org)

Sophie Morgado

571-527-3953

[Sophie.morgado@ncoa.org](mailto:Sophie.morgado@ncoa.org)

Daniel Wilson

571-527-4031

[Daniel.Wilson@ncoa.org](mailto:Daniel.Wilson@ncoa.org)

\* 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.