

# Keeping Medicare Affordable in Illinois

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 Illinois

**183,893** Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

**689,571** Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500  
(150% of the federal poverty level)



### John's Story

John had been receiving Social Security Disability for two years and recently started receiving Medicare. Medicare premiums were being deducted from his check, even though he qualified for a Medicare Savings Program. A benefits specialist helped him apply, and they soon discovered that the initial premium deductions were made in error. John received a refund, and he now has ongoing support to help him afford his daily expenses.

## 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 Illinois

- 1 [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)
- 33 [Area Agencies on Aging](#)
- 8 [Benefits Enrollment Centers](#)

AgeOptions  
AgeSmart Community Resources  
Alivio Medical Center  
HANA Center  
Harvard Community Senior Center  
Indo American Center  
Northwest Side Housing Center  
Sinai Chicago - Sinai Community Institute



### 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

For more information, contact:

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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.