

# Keeping Medicare Affordable in Rhode Island

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 Rhode Island

**14,191** Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

**75,933** Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500  
(150% of the federal poverty level)



### Lexamarie's Story

Lexamarie is a disabled single mom of two who has been on Medicare since 2025. She requested help because she has health concerns and needs additional medical coverage. Her children are covered under Medicaid. After screening Lexamarie, the benefits counselor helped her complete an online Medicaid application. Due to having a household size of three and a low income, she was eligible for a special Medicaid program that gives her the coverage she needs.

## 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 Rhode Island

- 1 [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)
- 1 [Bureau of Adult and Aging Services](#)
- 1 [Benefits Enrollment Center](#)  
Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging



### 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