

# Keeping Medicare Affordable in California

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 California

**294,989** Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

**2,379,447** Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500  
(150% of the federal poverty level)



### Mary Ann's Story

As a disabled senior citizen who lives below the poverty level and has only Social Security upon which to live and pay rent, I myself am a participant in the Medicare Extra Help program. It enables me to both get to appointments and to afford the medications and health aids prescribed for me. Without this coverage, I could afford neither.

## 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 California

- 1 [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)
- 41 [Area Agencies on Aging](#)
- 9 [Benefits Enrollment Centers](#)
  - [Community Action Marin](#)
  - [Community Health Initiative of Orange County](#)
  - [Disability Services & Legal Center](#)
  - [Family Health Centers of San Diego](#)
  - [LTSC Community Development Corporation](#)
  - [Mexican American Opportunity Foundation](#)
  - [Partners in Care Foundation](#)
  - [Southern California Rehabilitation Services, Inc.](#)
  - [United Cambodian Community](#)



## Learn More



[BenefitsCheckUp.org](#)

800-794-6559

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<sup>\*</sup> 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.