

# Keeping Medicare Affordable in Texas

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 Texas

**181,036** Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

**1,517,546** Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500  
(150% of the federal poverty level)



### Debbie's Story

Debbie, 71, lived in her car, a nursing home, and then in an unregulated board and care home. A benefits specialist did a deep dive into Debbie's life and realized she was eligible for the Medicare Savings Program and several other programs. After building trust with Debbie through frequent phone calls and home visits, the specialist was able to help Debbie apply for and enroll in the programs, bringing stability to her life.

## 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 Texas

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

[Bandera County Committee on Aging Inc. /The Silver Sage](#)  
[Dallas County Health & Human Services](#)  
[Elder Financial Safety Center at The Senior Source](#)



### 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](#)

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.