

# Keeping Medicare Affordable in Florida

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 Florida

**181,569** Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

**1,610,695** Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500  
(150% of the federal poverty level)



### Kathy's Story

I am a SHINE volunteer in Lake County, Florida. We have a lot of low-income seniors who need information and help on their Medicare/Medicaid issues. I frequently call our MIPPA expert up in Gainesville with questions, as well as seeking to understand exactly what benefits my client is entitled to. These are people who live on the edge, most are not fluent with computers nor how to navigate the system to get answers. I do my counseling in the local libraries. I have left these sessions in tears after listening to their stories.

## 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 Florida

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

Northeast Florida Area Agency on Aging (ElderSource)



### 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.