

Keeping Medicare Affordable in Minnesota

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 Minnesota

22,509 Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

264,310 Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500

(150% of the federal poverty level)



Francis' Story

Francis, 75, had moved to Minnesota from Florida. She needed guidance to switch to a Minnesota health plan and update her address with Medicare and Social Security. She also was struggling with food and energy costs. A benefits counselor helped her switch her health insurance and guided her on updating her Medicare and Social Security information. Together, they completed applications for food and energy benefits, and the counselor showed Francis how to access a local food pantry. By the end of the meeting, Francis was finally feeling at ease.

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%.¹ With an average Medicare hospital stay costing \$14,700,² connecting individuals to prescription drug coverage could create significant health care savings for both the patient and the government.

How MIPPA is Delivered in Minnesota

- 1 [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)
- 7 [Area Agencies on Aging](#)
- 2 **Benefits Enrollment Centers**
 - [CAPI USA](#)
 - [Trellis](#)



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

For more information, contact:

Natalie Zellner

571-527-3953

Natalie.zellner@ncoa.org

Sophie Morgado

571-527-3953

Sophie.morgado@ncoa.org

Daniel Wilson

571-527-4031

Daniel.Wilson@ncoa.org

^{*} Data from 10/1/23 to 9/30/24 from SHIP Tracking and Reporting System and BenefitsCheckUp

¹ 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.

² 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.