

## Keeping Medicare Affordable in Utah

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 Utah

**47,712** Medicare beneficiaries connected to benefits

**98,207** Medicare beneficiaries living at or below \$22,500  
(150% of the federal poverty level)



#### James's Story

James needed help applying for and getting approved for Medicaid. He had Supplemental Security Income that was discontinued due to his work. He had previously tried to enroll in Medicaid on his own but was unsure if he ever got a response. After talking with a benefits counselor, they started a new application. He was approved, allowing James to receive the health care he needs and build support for his ongoing Social Security case.

### 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 Utah

- 1 [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#)
- 25 [Area Agencies on Aging](#)
- 2 **Benefits Enrollment Centers**
  - [Five County Association of Governments](#)
  - [Utah Legal Services](#)



### 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://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.