Thanks to federal funding that supports efforts to find and enroll low-income people on Medicare into benefits they are eligible for, 9.3 million low-income older and disabled Americans received assistance that can help them to afford their prescription drugs and doctor visits.

This federal funding supports America’s:
- 50 State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP)
- 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)
- 90 Benefits Enrollment Centers (BECs)

These organizations help older adults making less than $22,000 a year apply for:
- Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS/Extra Help)
- Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs)

Funding also supports BenefitsCheckUp®, a free online screening and enrollment tool.

Americans in Need Found Help...
Thanks to previous federal funding, in 2022-2023:
- 5.7 million Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers in America received help with access to low-income benefits
- 3.6 million Americans used BenefitsCheckUp® to connect with benefits online

... But Far Too Many Are Still Missing Out
- 20.5 million Medicare beneficiaries in America are living at or below 150% of the federal poverty level and need help affording health care

Estimate taken from SHIP Tracking and Reporting System (STARS)
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 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.

Organizations Connecting Low-Income Americans to Benefits

State Health Insurance Programs
shiphelp.org
800-701-0501

Area Agencies on Aging
eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx
800-342-9871

Benefits Enrollment Centers
ncoa.org/article/meet-our-benefits-enrollment-centers

BenefitsCheckUp.org
National Council on Aging
800-794-6559

For more information, contact:
Howard Bedlin
571-527-3994
howard.bedlin@ncoa.org

Benefits outreach and enrollment works—but without this assistance low-income Americans on Medicare will be left behind, unable to afford basic health care.