



Older voters have identified Medicare as one of their top issues in the November elections, yet too many politicians fail to recognize the contributions Medicare makes to the economy and the health security of millions of Americans. Any candidates who fail to talk about how they would strengthen Medicare for future generations do so at their peril.

Fact Sheet: Idaho

JULY 2018

Medicare Contributes \$2.9 Billion to Idaho's Economy

Medicare helped pay the health care costs of 290,929 Medicare beneficiaries in Idaho in 2017, allowing its seniors to get the care they need and protecting them from serious financial burdens.

In addition, Medicare is a critical part of the economic infrastructure of Idaho, investing about \$2.9 billion in the state in 2017. Thousands of businesses, large and small, including hospitals, nursing homes, physicians' offices and medical device providers, rely on Medicare to exist and maintain their operations. Businesses in Idaho receiving Medicare dollars use them to pay employee salaries, rent, and state and local taxes, as well as buy equipment and make capital improvements to their facilities.

In fact, Medicare spending in Idaho is equivalent to about 23 percent of spending by state and local governments in Idaho.

Here's how much Medicare* spent in Idaho by health care service sector:

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| Hospitals | \$1.4 billion |
| Physicians | \$563 million |
| Other health professionals | \$99 million |
| Skilled nursing facilities | \$121 million |
| Home health care agencies | \$201 million |
| Prescription drugs and medical supplies | \$458 million |
| Durable medical equipment suppliers | \$55 million |
| Other health care providers | \$18 million |

* Medicare only covers short-term skilled care in nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities and at home for an illness or injury; it does not cover long-term services at home or in a nursing home. For information on what services Medicare covers, see "What Medicare Covers" at www.Medicare.gov or call 800-Medicare.