



*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 does so at their peril.*

**Fact Sheet: Nebraska**

**JULY 2018**

**Medicare Contributes \$3.4 Billion to Nebraska's Economy**

Medicare helped pay the health care costs of 307,778 Medicare beneficiaries in Nebraska 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 Nebraska, investing about \$3.4 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 Nebraska 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 Nebraska is equivalent to about 15 percent of spending by state and local governments in Nebraska.

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

Hospitals	\$1.8 billion
Physicians	\$644 million
Other health professionals	\$122 million
Skilled nursing facilities	\$190 million
Home health care agencies	\$136 million
Prescription drugs and medical supplies	\$497 million
Durable medical equipment suppliers	\$44 million
Other health care providers	\$26 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](http://www.Medicare.gov) or call 800-Medicare.