



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: Washington

JULY 2018

Medicare Contributes \$11.9 Billion to Washington’s Economy

Medicare helped pay the health care costs of 1.2 million Medicare beneficiaries in Washington 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 Washington, investing about \$11.9 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 Washington 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 Washington is equivalent to about 14 percent of spending by state and local governments in Washington.

Here’s how much Medicare* spent in Washington by health care service sector:

Hospitals	\$5.6 billion
Physicians	\$2.8 billion
Other health professionals	\$438 million
Skilled nursing facilities	\$742 million
Home health care agencies	\$535 million
Prescription drugs and medical supplies	\$1.6 billion
Durable medical equipment suppliers	\$157 million
Other health care providers	\$103 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.