Why Social Security and Medicare Are Vital to Older Americans in Indiana

Social Security and Medicare provide income and health security to older Americans aged 65 and older. Growing debt burdens, dwindling pensions, and increasing health care costs make these programs more important than ever. Here’s what they do for Indiana.

Social Security in Indiana

Older Hoosiers count on Social Security benefits earned through a lifetime of work
- A total of 95 percent, or 844,162, of older Indiana residents received Social Security in 2012. The average annual benefit was $15,700.
- Social Security accounted for 56 percent of the typical older Hoosier’s family income.
- Low- and middle-income older adults in Indiana are even more reliant on Social Security’s earned benefit, typically receiving 79 percent of their family income from Social Security.

Social Security keeps middle-income older Hoosiers from falling into poverty
- Census data show about 8 percent, or 69,702, of older Hoosiers living in poverty.
- Without Social Security income, an additional 41 percent of older Hoosiers, or 354,371 people, would fall into poverty.

Social Security plays an important role in Indiana’s economy
- Social Security provided $17.6 billion in benefits to all Hoosiers and $13 billion in benefits to Hoosiers aged 65 and older in 2012.

Medicare in Indiana

Medicare provides guaranteed health coverage, but out-of-pocket costs are high
- In 2012, older Indiana adults enrolled in Medicare spent, on average, an estimated 15 percent of their income on out-of-pocket health care costs.

Medicare provides peace of mind for older Hoosiers
- Nearly 98 percent of older Hoosiers were enrolled in Medicare in 2011.

Medicare plays an important role in Indiana’s economy
- The Medicare program spent an estimated $8 billion on health care services for 870,402 older Hoosiers in 2012.