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

Social Security in Louisiana

Older Louisianans count on Social Security benefits earned through a lifetime of work

- A total of 88 percent, or 524,420, of older Louisiana residents received Social Security in 2012. The average annual benefit was $13,700.
- Social Security accounted for 52 percent of the typical older Louisianan’s family income.
- Low- and middle-income older adults in Louisiana are even more reliant on Social Security’s earned benefit, typically receiving 88 percent of their family income from Social Security.

Social Security keeps middle-income older Louisianans from falling into poverty

- Census data show about 15 percent, or 84,315, of older Louisianans living in poverty.
- Without Social Security income, an additional 35 percent of older Louisianans, or 198,078 people, would fall into poverty.

Social Security plays an important role in Louisiana’s economy

- Social Security provided $10.2 billion in benefits to all Louisianans and $7.1 billion in benefits to Louisianans aged 65 and older in 2012.

Medicare in Louisiana

Medicare provides guaranteed health coverage, but out-of-pocket costs are high

- On average, Louisiana’s Medicare beneficiaries spent an estimated $5,377 on out-of-pocket health care costs in 2012.
- In 2012, older Louisiana adults enrolled in Medicare spent, on average, an estimated 19 percent of their income on out-of-pocket health care costs.

Medicare provides peace of mind for older Louisianans

- Nearly 97 percent of older Louisianans were enrolled in Medicare in 2011.

Medicare plays an important role in Louisiana’s economy

- The Medicare program spent an estimated $6.3 billion on health care services for 570,633 older Louisianans in 2012.