Why Social Security and Medicare Are Vital to Older Americans in New Hampshire

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 New Hampshire.

Social Security in New Hampshire

Older New Hampshire residents count on Social Security benefits earned through a lifetime of work

- A total of 96 percent, or 186,216, of older New Hampshire residents received Social Security in 2012. The average annual benefit was $15,700.
- Social Security accounted for 51 percent of the typical older New Hampshire resident’s family income.
- Low- and middle-income older adults in New Hampshire are even more reliant on Social Security’s earned benefit, typically receiving 81 percent of their family income from Social Security.

Social Security keeps middle-income older New Hampshire residents from falling into poverty

- Census data show about 6 percent, or 11,253, of older New Hampshire residents living in poverty.
- Without Social Security income, an additional 39 percent of older New Hampshire residents, or 67,757 people, would fall into poverty.

Social Security plays an important role in New Hampshire’s economy

- Social Security provided $3.9 billion in benefits to all New Hampshire residents and $2.9 billion in benefits to New Hampshire residents aged 65 and older in 2012.

Medicare in New Hampshire

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

- On average, New Hampshire’s Medicare beneficiaries spent an estimated $4,098 on out-of-pocket health care costs in 2012.
- In 2012, older New Hampshire adults enrolled in Medicare spent, on average, an estimated 11 percent of their income on out-of-pocket health care costs.

Medicare provides peace of mind for older New Hampshire residents

- Nearly 96 percent of older New Hampshire residents were enrolled in Medicare in 2011.

Medicare plays an important role in New Hampshire’s economy

- The Medicare program spent an estimated $1.7 billion on health care services for 196,210 older New Hampshire residents in 2012.