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

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 Ohio.

Social Security in Ohio

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

- A total of 90 percent, or 1,537,362, of older Ohio residents received Social Security in 2012. The average annual benefit was $14,800.
- Social Security accounted for 55 percent of the typical older Ohioan’s family income.
- Low- and middle-income older adults in Ohio 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 Ohioans from falling into poverty

- Census data show about 8 percent, or 126,332, of older Ohioans living in poverty.
- Without Social Security income, an additional 40 percent of older Ohioans, or 622,239 people, would fall into poverty.

Social Security plays an important role in Ohio’s economy

- Social Security provided $29.8 billion in benefits to all Ohioans and $22.4 billion in benefits to Ohioans aged 65 and older in 2012.

Medicare in Ohio

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

- On average, Ohio’s Medicare beneficiaries spent an estimated $4,983 on out-of-pocket health care costs in 2012.
- In 2012, older Ohio adults enrolled in Medicare spent, on average, an estimated 16 percent of their income on out-of-pocket health care costs.

Medicare provides peace of mind for older Ohioans

- Nearly 98 percent of older Ohioans were enrolled in Medicare in 2011.

Medicare plays an important role in Ohio’s economy

- The Medicare program spent an estimated $17.1 billion on health care services for 1,661,205 older Ohioans in 2012.