

## Why Social Security and Medicare Are Vital to Older Americans in Utah

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 Utah.

### Social Security in Utah

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

- A total of 90 percent, or 244,907, of older Utah residents received Social Security in 2012. The average annual benefit was \$15,100.
- Social Security accounted for 48 percent of the typical older Utahn's family income.
- Low- and middle-income older adults in Utah are even more reliant on Social Security's earned benefit, typically receiving 72 percent of their family income from Social Security.

#### Social Security keeps middle-income older Utahns from falling into poverty

- Census data show about 7 percent, or 19,924, of older Utahns living in poverty.
- Without Social Security income, an additional 35 percent of older Utahns, or 94,346 people, would fall into poverty.

#### Social Security plays an important role in Utah's economy

- Social Security provided \$4.8 billion in benefits to all Utahns and \$3.6 billion in benefits to Utahns aged 65 and older in 2012.

### Medicare in Utah

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

- On average, Utah's Medicare beneficiaries spent an estimated \$4,082 on out-of-pocket health care costs in 2012.
- In 2012, older Utah adults enrolled in Medicare spent, on average, an estimated 13 percent of their income on out-of-pocket health care costs.

#### Medicare provides peace of mind for older Utahns

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

#### Medicare plays an important role in Utah's economy

- The Medicare program spent an estimated \$2.2 billion on health care services for 261,656 older Utahns in 2012.