

NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM
EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 1, 2018

The recently passed state budget lowers the income guidelines for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). This program assists individuals with the monthly cost of the Medicare B premium. For those that qualified for Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB-Silver DSS Card), the program also paid all Medicare copays and significantly reduced the cost of prescription copays.

Effective January 1, 2018, many individuals will lose subsidy through this program due to the new income guidelines. Below are the new income limits.

NEW INCOME GUIDELINES

<i>MSP Program Tier</i>	<i>Program Coverage</i>	<i>New Income Limit (Individuals) Effective 1/1/2018</i>	<i>NEW Income Limit (Couples) Effective 1/1/2018</i>
QMB	Medicare B Premium All Medicare Deductibles Medicare Co-Insurance	\$1,025 monthly	\$1,374 monthly
SLMB	Medicare B Premium	\$1,226 monthly	\$1,644 monthly
ALMB	Medicare B Premium	\$1,377 monthly	\$1,847 monthly

What do these changes mean for you if you no longer qualify for MSP?

- The Department of Social Services has mailed letters to all who are affected by these changes.
- You will still have Medicare coverage, but may lose the subsidy to pay premiums, deductibles and co-insurance.
- You will begin to pay the monthly cost of your Medicare B premium, which could be as high as \$134.90 per month.
- If you have "Extra Help" (LIS) for prescriptions, you will continue to have coverage through 12/31/18.

You may want to enroll in a Medicare Advantage or other Medicare Supplemental Plan to assist with the increased out of pocket medical costs that you will incur due to these changes. Costs vary per plan.

Who do I contact with questions or to assist me with enrolling in a plan?

Suffield Residents can contact the Emergency Aid Association for an appointment to meet with a trained CHOICES Counselor
Call: 860-668-1986

***ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IMPACTED BY THE
CHANGES TO THE MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM?***

***YOU CAN HELP EFFECT CHANGE BY CONTACTING
YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS!***

CALL ~ WRITE ~ EMAIL

***TOWN OF Suffield
STATE LEGISLATORS***

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Your calls are already working! The State Legislature has begun to review the negative impact this will have on our seniors and disabled residents. However, until the changes are modified or repealed, these changes will be effective on January 1, 2018.