

Integrated Care Updates

New Mexico Eliminates Asset Test for Its Medicare Savings Programs

New Mexico's Human Services Department removed the asset test requirement for its Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs). New Mexicans with an annual income of less than \$17,399 for an individual and \$23,520 for a couple are eligible for MSPs. Eliminating the asset test will make it easier for New Mexico's low-income individuals to get help paying for their Medicare premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and other cost-sharing requirements. In addition to reducing beneficiaries' out-of-pocket expenses, eliminating the asset test also streamlines processes and reduces administrative costs for the state.

New CMS Informational Bulletin: Opportunities to Increase Enrollment in Medicare Savings Programs

On November 1, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published an Informational Bulletin [Opportunities to Increase Enrollment in Medicare Savings Programs](#) describing ways that states can help eligible individuals enroll in MSPs, making health care more accessible and affordable. The MSPs cover Medicare Part A and B premiums and cost sharing for individuals with low income. In 2021, over 10 million individuals were enrolled in an MSP.

This Informational Bulletin describes two opportunities for states to increase enrollment in MSPs. Specifically, the letter focuses on using Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) data to initiate an MSP application and maximizing MSP Qualifying Individuals (QI) enrollment for which there is 100% federal funding to states for the payment of Medicare Part B premiums.

With the release of the Informational Bulletin, CMS posted a [state-by-state list](#) of the number and percentage of LIS enrollees who are likely eligible for an MSP but are not enrolled. This information should help states evaluate the impact of their current policies and procedures on MSP take-up among LIS enrollees.

November 2021 Enrollment in Medicare-Medicaid Plans

Between October and November 2021, total Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP) enrollment in the nine states (CA, IL, MA, MI, NY, OH, RI, SC, and TX) currently implementing capitated model demonstrations under the Financial Alignment Initiative increased from 423,883 to 432,460 as shown in ICRC's table [Monthly Enrollment in Medicare-Medicaid Plans by Plan and by State, November 2020 to November 2021](#).

November 2021 Enrollment in PACE Organizations

PACE organizations provide comprehensive medical and social services to frail, community-dwelling individuals age 55 and older, most of whom are dually eligible. As shown in ICRC's table, [Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly \(PACE\) Total Enrollment by State and by Organization](#), PACE organizations were operating in 31 states in November 2021. Between October and November 2021, the total number of Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in PACE increased from 52,088 to 52,442.

Key Upcoming Dates

- **October 15 to December 7** – Annual Coordinated Election Period, Medicare beneficiaries can enroll in Medicare Advantage or Part D plans for 2022
- **December 7** – End of the Annual Election Period

ABOUT THE INTEGRATED CARE RESOURCE CENTER

The Integrated Care Resource Center is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to help states improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care for individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The state technical assistance activities are coordinated by Mathematica and the Center for Health Care Strategies. For more information, visit www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com.

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