

# Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program



## About SMP

SMP empowers and assists Medicare beneficiaries to prevent, detect, and report Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse. SMP provides one-on-one assistance and conducts community outreach to Medicare beneficiaries of all ages, their family members, and caregivers. When suspected fraud occurs, SMP reports and refers issues to the appropriate state and federal agencies.

Managed by ACL's Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling (OHIC), SMP works with state offices, local agencies, grantees, and community members. There are 54 SMP grantees (one in each state, Puerto Rico, Guam, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and over 5,720 team members.

## SMP Funding

SMP programs are funded by the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC) program for antifraud activities. In 2019, funding for SMP totaled nearly \$18 million, approximately \$15.6 million of which was distributed to grantees to deliver SMP program services within their communities. In 2022, Congress increased the budget to \$30 million, bringing the total funding for local programs to just over \$27 million.

## Performance Outcomes Snapshot

In 2019, SMP programs<sup>1</sup>:

- Reached 1.6 million people through 28,146 group outreach and education events.
- Held more than 320,590 individual counseling sessions with, or on behalf of, Medicare beneficiaries.
- Reported \$2.4 million in expected Medicare recoveries.

## SMP Resource Center

The [SMP Resource Center](#) provides training and technical assistance to SMP grantees. The Resource Center also serves consumers by disseminating fraud alerts and helping them to find their local program through the SMP locator.

<sup>1</sup> 2020 OIG SMP Performance Report.

## Other ACL Programs

Many SMP grantees also provide ACL's [State Health Insurance Assistance Program \(SHIP\)](#) services. SHIP offers one-on-one assistance, counseling, and education to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to help them make informed health care decisions including assisting with Medicare enrollment and accessing benefits.

Some grantees also receive additional targeted funding through ACL's [Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act \(MIPPA\)](#). MIPPA provides outreach and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries with limited income and assets so they can apply to programs that help lower their Medicare premiums and deductibles. MIPPA grantees focus special efforts on targeting rural areas and Native American elders.

## Key Partnerships

SMP is also known as a trusted partner at the local, state, and national level and provides a direct link from Medicare beneficiaries to fraud investigators.

### National Partners

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- HHS Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
- Social Security Administration (SSA)
- National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)
- AARP Fraud Watch

### State Partners

- State Medicaid Agencies
- Medicaid Fraud Control Units (MFCUs)
- State Departments of Insurance
- Beneficiary and Family Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization (BFCC-QIO)
- State Medical Boards
- State Long-Term Care Ombudsmen

