



MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM ADVOCACY

Southwestern CT Agency on Aging

Advocacy Alert 2019

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The Medicare Savings Program (MSP) assists low income seniors and people with disabilities with the cost of their Medicare Part B premiums and unaffordable Medicare cost-sharing requirements. HUSKY A provides health insurance for low income parents of minor children, the vast majority of whom are working.

In 2018, the Medicare Savings Program was threatened by drastic cuts to the eligibility guidelines (see chart below). In a bipartisan agreement in July 2018, the state legislature restored the MSP funding and retained 2018 eligibility guidelines.

Once again this year, Connecticut's unprecedented deficit puts the Medicare Savings Program in jeopardy of cuts and reductions that will limit healthcare access for low and moderate income older adults.

The chart below is based on last year's proposal. No proposal has been publicized for SFY 2020 but we must be prepared to advocate!

	SFY 2018 Current single/couple	SFY 2019 Proposed single/couple
QMB	\$2120.55/\$2,854.83	\$1,025/\$1,374
SLMB	\$2321.55/ \$3,125.43	\$1,225/\$1,644
ALMB	\$2472.30/\$3,328.48	\$1,377/\$1,847

Medicare beneficiaries and the people who love and care for them **MUST** be prepared to call their Connecticut State representatives and senators and ask them



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to retain full eligibility for these critically important programs. Any reduction to the eligibility guidelines risks access to healthcare. Reduced healthcare does not decrease healthcare expenses. When individuals don't access prevention and medication, often more costly interventions like hospitals and nursing homes are required.

For more information on the cuts or how to reach your [representative](#), contact the Southwestern CT Agency on Aging, 800-994-9422 or visit www.swcaa.org.