

# AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

## HOW THE HEALTH CARE LAW BENEFITS SENIORS

- **Reduces prescription drug costs for seniors.** The health care law provides a 50% discount on brand-name drugs for seniors in the Medicare Part D ‘donut hole’ coverage gap. 3.6 million seniors have already received the discount – saving a total of \$2.1 billion, with each senior saving an average of \$604. The health care law also completely closes the ‘donut hole’ by 2020. The seniors benefiting from this provision will save more than \$3,000 in 2020 on their drug costs.
- **Provides free Medicare coverage of key preventive services,** such as mammograms and colonoscopies. 32.5 million seniors – 25.7 million in traditional Medicare and 6.8 million in Medicare Advantage – have already received one or more free preventive services.
- **Provides a free Annual Wellness Visit under Medicare,** for the first time. 2.3 million seniors in traditional Medicare have already taken advantage of this new Medicare benefit.
- **Strengthens Medicare and extends the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by 8 years – from 2016 to 2024.** The law’s reforms strengthen solvency by squeezing waste out of the system and making it more efficient, without reducing benefits.
- **Provides new tools to crack down on fraud in Medicare,** and in FY 2011, a joint anti-Medicare fraud task force of HHS and the Department of Justice recovered more than \$4.1 billion in fraudulent Medicare payment on behalf of taxpayers – the second year in a row recovery efforts reached this unprecedented level.
- **Helps seniors remain at home and stay out of nursing homes,** with the new Community First Choice Option, allowing states to offer home-based services to disabled individuals through Medicaid rather than institutional care.
- **Provides nursing home residents with more protections from abuse** and makes more information available about nursing homes so consumers are better informed.