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Older Adults Living in Poverty: How Medicaid Helps

Samantha Levine

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OLDER ADULTS LIVING IN POVERTY: HOW MEDICAID HELPS

Paid for by a Trust Fund Paid for by Federal, State, funded with Payroll Taxes and Local Taxes Benefits people with Disabilities Program differs State by State Same Program Nationwide Prescription Drug Coverage Benefits people over the age of 65 Benefits people with low incomes **Outpatient Hospital Care** Participants pay deductibles and Participants pay very little for part of coverage or no part of coverage Inpatient Hospital Care Divided into 4 Parts: A, B, C & D Participants receive regular Dental and Vision Exams @2014 Seidell rce; medicare.gov, hhs.gov, medicaid.gov, healthcare.gov

What Does Medicaid Cover?

- Premiums and out-of-pocket medical expenses
- Skilled nursing facility care beyond the 100-day limit
- Prescription drugs and eyeglasses/hearing aids
- Family and caregiver support and training
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Nutrition services
- Transportation services
- Hospice care

One-third of senior households have no money left over each month or are in debt after meeting essential expenses.

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HOW CAN SOCIAL WORKERS HELP?

- Help clients apply for Medicaid coverage
- Advocate for clients during the application process
- Empower and motivate clients to utilize all available resources offered by Medicare and Medicaid

"Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you; they're supposed to help you discover who you are." -Bernice Johnson Reagon

FAST FACTS

REGARDING POVERTY

The poverty rate among people ages 65 and older increases with age and is higher for women, African-Americans and Hispanics, and people in relatively poor health.

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The:
Commonwealth
Fund

Source: 2017 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Olifer Adults

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Those 65 years and older are hospitalized three times as often as those 45 to 64 years old.