

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS-4203-NC
P.O. Box 8013, Baltimore, MD 21244-8013

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Meals on Wheels South Florida and the tens of thousands of seniors in our care, I am writing to urge the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to protect and strengthen a valuable program — Medicare Advantage. Medicare Advantage positively contributes to our state's growing aging community and organizations like ours by providing supplemental services, like meal delivery, to help our beloved, and often vulnerable, seniors live to their full potential.

Medicare Advantage's partnerships with organizations like Meals on Wheels are instrumental in delivering and expanding the program's wide range of supplemental benefits for beneficiaries. For Meals on Wheels, these include home visits from our volunteers to deliver nutritious meals to seniors that serve the dual purpose of increasing their social interaction and reducing the detrimental impact that comes from isolation and its related depression. Nutrition plays a foundational role in seniors' health and can prevent chronic illnesses like heart disease, high blood pressure or diabetes that can seriously impact seniors physical and financial health, which makes these meals that much more beneficial.

Additionally, our organization takes preventative action in homes to help seniors avoid detrimental accidents. While our efforts certainly improve the quality of life for our seniors, Medicare Advantage expands on our efforts by providing personalized plans to meet each senior's individual health care needs.

Although Meals on Wheels South Florida has yet to be included in the scope of services offered through Medicare Advantage, I have seen the remarkable difference in the quality of life Medicare Advantage clients benefit from as opposed to those who cannot access all Medicare Advantage has to offer.

Community-based organizations also provide valuable insights about the health and wellbeing of beneficiaries by collecting information in their homes during visits which would otherwise be unavailable to health care professionals.

The overwhelmingly positive response to Medicare Advantage has resulted in a continuous increase in enrollees. Approximately [94 percent](#) of seniors enjoy their Medicare Advantage plans and their average savings of \$2,000 a year on health care costs. It is apparent that seniors across Florida and the United States want Medicare Advantage to remain active.

CMS should help ensure this program remains strong and grows to cater to the needs of its skyrocketing enrollment. There are more than 2.5 million seniors in the Sunshine State that rely on the program to access affordable and high-quality health care. You have the power and influence to protect this popular and vital program along with the organizations like ours that make a positive impact on the lives of millions of Americans.

Sincerely,



Mark Adler, MPH
Executive Director
Meals on Wheels South Florida

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