**New Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003**

There are 650,000 to 700,000 MD seniors enrolled in Medicare who do not currently have a prescription benefit, but will be eligible after January 2006 if they voluntarily enroll. The estimated 100,000 of these who are dually enrolled in Medicaid will be automatically enrolled in the new Part D if they do not voluntarily choose a plan.

**Bold Squares** with color indicate people currently being served by programs. White Space indicates both citizens who potentially could be served or within the *bold squares* how many will lose current services.

### Medicaid – Maryland Medical Assistance Program

A joint state-federal health insurance program that assists low income individuals with some 467,000 Medicaid recipients in April 2004. About 100,000 Maryland seniors dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid will be dropped from the Medicaid program, and must also be assisted by the various agencies to select a prescription drug plan under the new Medicare benefit.

### The Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP)

Over 22,600 seniors who have annual incomes below 116% of poverty and who are currently enrolled in MPAP will be dropped from this program, and must choose a prescription benefit plan under the new Medicare Part D program if they want to continue receiving some prescription benefits. Both these seniors and more than 25,000 younger (ineligible for Medicare) adults who remain enrolled in MPAP may face benefit changes and additional costs as well.

### The Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program (MPDP)

This program, currently helping approximately 7,000 Medicare enrollees with incomes between 116% and 175% of the poverty level (with no asset test) to purchase Medicaid formulary drugs at lower costs, will end with the advent of the new Medicare legislation. These seniors will have to enroll in Medicare Part D if they wish to continue receiving pharmacy benefits, and their costs for drugs may increase.

### Senior Prescription Drug Program

Currently, over 33,000 Maryland Medicare beneficiaries with incomes below 300% of poverty are assisted. For a $10 monthly premium in addition to co-pays, they receive a $1,100 annual benefit for outpatient drug costs. This program is scheduled to end on June 30, 2005, unless the Maryland General Assembly removes this “sunset,” or rewrites its legislation in some way. The new Medicare prescription benefit begins January 2006.

### The Maryland Medbank Program

As of October 2004, 27,540 low-income, chronically ill, uninsured and underinsured individuals are served by accessing patient assistance programs maintained by pharmaceutical companies. Approximately ½ are not seniors. The program is scheduled to be reduced on July 1, 2005 to $500,000 and sunsets June 30, 2006.

This policy analysis document compiled November 2004 for the Rural Maryland Council Health Working Committee by:

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This document is available at: http://www.hhp.umd.edu/FMST/fis/current.htm
### Impact of MMA on MD Prescription Drug Legislation / Programs

<table>
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<th>Timeline for Legislative Action</th>
<th>White area represents total number of Maryland Citizens currently receiving pharmacy benefits</th>
<th>Others who might need Assistance</th>
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<td>Current Programs</td>
<td>The Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Through Jan 2005</td>
<td>The Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program</td>
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<td>MD Budget Process</td>
<td>The Maryland Medbank Program</td>
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Medicare eligibility required