



Press Release

AAF Reviews MA Stars Program

JULY 23, 2015

The American Action Forum (@AAF) today released new research analyzing the Medicare Advantage (MA) Stars program. The research examines whether the Stars rating system penalizes plans with high Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) and dual-eligible enrollees. The key findings include:

- On average, MA contracts with over 30 percent LIS enrollment have a lower rating than other plans by 0.5 Stars;
- We find a significant penalty in Stars rating for plans with significant LIS enrollment;
- This implies a financial penalty to those MA plans with significant LIS enrollment, which in turn reduces the resources available to vulnerable low income populations; and
- A total of more than \$470 million in bonus payments could be lost due to reduced ratings. For individuals, our estimates range from a reduction of \$380 to \$410 per senior.

[Click here](#) to read the research.