How the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Impacts Asthma Patients:



Overview of the IRA:

In 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law, which includes significant provisions aimed at combating climate change and improving access to healthcare, particularly impacting asthma patients.



The IRA allocates \$369 billion towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from 2005 levels by 2030. Climate change exacerbates air pollution, a significant trigger for asthma and allergies. This law includes:

- Incentives for cleaner energy choices and tax credits for energyefficient homes and electric vehicles.
- A \$3 billion environmental justice block grant program to address air pollution disparities affecting communities, particularly Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous populations who are disproportionately impacted by asthma.



HEALTHCARE ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS:



The IRA enhances healthcare access through measures that benefit asthma patients:

- Medicare Prescription Drug Cost Cap:** Starting in 2025, Medicare patients will not pay more than \$2,000 annually out-of-pocket for prescription drugs, including asthma medications.
- Medicare Drug Price Negotiation:** Beginning in 2026, the HHS will negotiate drug prices, potentially lowering costs for high-cost medications used to treat asthma.
- Enhanced ACA Marketplace Subsidies:**
 Extended APTCs reduce premiums for ACA
 Marketplace insurance, making coverage more
 affordable for middle-income asthma patients.

AAFA-MI'S RESPONSE:

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America- Michigan Chapter (AAFA-MI) has advocated for these changes to address healthcare disparities and reduce the financial burden on asthma patients. AAFA-MI continues to monitor the impact of these provisions on the asthma community, advocating for ongoing improvements in healthcare affordability and access. We recognize the critical role of a clean environment in respiratory health and wholeheartedly support these initiatives.



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Other IRA Benefits:

Electric Stove Rebate:

• Up to \$14,000 per household for landlords or homeowners switching to electric appliances, including stoves, to reduce indoor air pollution and improve respiratory health.

Heat Pump Rebate:

• Up to 30% tax credit on heat pumps, promoting cleaner heating and cooling options that improve indoor air quality and reduce allergens.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Incentives:

• Up to \$7,500 tax credit for new electric vehicles, and up to \$4,000 tax credit for used EV's, making commuting cleaner and reducing outdoor air pollutants that can aggravate asthma symptoms.

Energy Efficiency Rebates:

 Up to \$3,200 annually for energy efficiency upgrades, such as insulation and windows, which can help maintain indoor air quality and reduce energy consumption.

Home Energy Efficiency Improvements:

• Rebates for installing efficient electric HVAC systems, which can improve indoor air quality and reduce asthma triggers.

The Savings Calculator provided by Rewiring America under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) offers a user-friendly tool for estimating potential savings when transitioning to electric appliances and vehicles.

STATE PROGRAM

- Michigan Saves: This program offers low-interest loans for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy projects. It helps homeowners and businesses finance upgrades such as insulation, heating and cooling systems, and renewable energy installations.
- Pure Michigan Energy Efficiency Program: This program provides rebates and incentives for energy-efficient home improvements. It targets upgrades such as high-efficiency appliances, insulation, and windows.
- Michigan Home Heating Credit: This credit helps low-income households with heating costs. Eligibility is based on income and household size, and it provides a one-time credit to help cover heating expenses during the winter months.
- Michigan Solar For All: This program supports the installation of solar energy systems through incentives and rebates. It's aimed at reducing the upfront costs for solar panel installations in residential and commercial properties.
- Energy Efficiency Programs by Utility Providers: Many utility companies in Michigan, such as DTE Energy and Consumers Energy, offer their own energy efficiency programs. These may include rebates on energy-efficient appliances, home energy audits, and incentives for upgrading heating and cooling systems.

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Pure Michigan Energy:

https://www.energy.gov/ scep/home-energy-rebatesprograms

EGLE-EnergyServices@ Michigan. gov

Michigan Home Heating Credit:

https://www.michigan.gov **Itreasury** 517.636.4486

Michigan Solar For All:

https://www.michigan.gov/egle/a bout/organization/climate-andenergy/mi-healthy-climateplan/funding/ggrf/mi-solar 800.662.9278

DTE:

Consumer Energy:

866.796.0512 1.800.477.5050

References:

- How much can you save by going electric? https://homes.rewiringamerica.org/
- What the Inflation Reduction Act Means for People With Asthma and Allergies https://community.aafa.org/
- Save Money on Your Energy Bills With President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act https://www.michiganlcv.org/energy-savings/