

Help someone save an average of \$3,900 on prescription drug costs

2009



Do you know someone who needs help with prescription costs?

Now, you can help someone you care about apply for Extra Help with their Medicare prescription drug costs. Anyone who has Medicare can get Medicare Prescription Drug coverage. Extra Help is available for some people with limited income and resources. It will pay for all or most of the monthly premiums and annual deductibles and lower the prescription co-payments related to their plan. The Extra Help is estimated to be worth an average of \$3,900 per year. Many people with limited income and resources qualify for these big savings and don't even know it. To find out if someone is eligible, Social Security will need to know their income and the value of their savings, investments and real estate (other than their home). If they are married and living with their spouse, we will need this information for both of them.

To qualify for Extra Help they must have:

- Income limited to \$16,245 for an individual or \$21,855 for a married couple living together. Even if their annual income is higher, the ones you care about still may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. Some examples where income may be higher include if they or their spouse:
 - Support other family members who live with them;
 - Have earnings from work; or
 - Live in Alaska or Hawaii; and
- Resources limited to \$12,510 for an individual or \$25,010 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. We **do not** count their house and car as resources.

Getting started

Social Security can give you an application you can complete to help Medicare beneficiaries apply for Extra Help. The worksheet on the opposite page can assist you in helping them complete the application for Extra Help. The worksheet is **not** an application.

Ask whoever you are helping to:

- Identify the things they own alone, with their spouse or with someone else. They **should not** include their home, vehicles, burial plots or personal possessions.
- Review all their income.
- Gather their records in advance to save time.

Documents that will help you prepare in advance for anyone you are helping

- Statements that show their account balances at banks, credit unions or other financial institutions;
- Investment statements;
- Life insurance policy statements;
- Stock certificates;
- Tax returns;
- Pension award letters; and
- Payroll slips.

State agencies may be able to help with Medicare costs

Medicare Savings Programs help people with limited income and resources pay for their Medicare expenses. If whoever you are helping pays a premium for Medicare Part A, the Medicare Savings Programs may pay it for them. The help they get from the Medicare Savings Programs can save them more than \$1,100 a year.

If you think they might be able to get help from their state with Medicare costs, or if you are not sure, call their state medical assistance (Medicaid) office or call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. TTY users should call **1-877-486-2048**.

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How you can get more information

For more information about Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

You can help someone apply online for Extra Help at www.socialsecurity.gov. To help them apply by phone or get an application, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the *Application for Help with Medicare*

We need to know information about their (and their spouse's, if they are married and living together) income and resources:

Prescription Drug Plan Costs (SSA-1020). Social Security representatives are available to help you complete the application.

To learn more about the Medicare prescription drug plans and special enrollment periods, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048). Medicare also can tell you about agencies in your area that can help you with Medicare prescription drug plans.

Resources	Value
Bank accounts, including checking, savings and certificates of deposit	\$ _____
Stocks, bonds, savings bonds, mutual funds, individual retirement accounts (IRAs) or other investments	\$ _____
Cash at home or anywhere else	\$ _____
Life insurance policies for applicant (and spouse, if married and living together)	\$ _____
<i>NOTE: Social Security needs to know how much money the applicant or spouse would get if they cashed in their life insurance policies today. Ask them to check with their insurance company or agent to get the exact cash value. This probably will be less than the amount they are insured for.</i>	
Any real estate other than their home	\$ _____

Income	Monthly Amount
Social Security benefits	\$ _____
Railroad Retirement benefits	\$ _____
Veterans benefits	\$ _____
Other pensions or annuities	\$ _____
Alimony	\$ _____
Net rental income	\$ _____
Workers' compensation	\$ _____
Other income	\$ _____
Help from other people to pay for household expenses, such as food, mortgage or rent, heating fuel or gas, electricity, water and property taxes	\$ _____

	Annual Amount
Wages	\$ _____
Net earnings from self-employment	\$ _____