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Social Security

## *Extra Help* with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs [\(En español\)](#)

Medicare beneficiaries can qualify for *Extra Help* paying for their monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and co-payments related to Medicare prescription drug coverage.

We estimate the *Extra Help* is worth about \$5,100 per year. To qualify for *Extra Help*, you must be receiving Medicare and have limited resources and income. You must also reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

[Find Out if You Qualify](#)

[Apply for \*Extra Help\*](#)

[Apply Online](#)

The application for *Extra Help* **does not enroll you in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan**. You do not need to be [enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan](#) to file for *Extra Help*. However, the *Extra Help* assistance does not start until you're enrolled with an approved Medicare prescription drug provider.

[Apply Online for \*Extra Help\*](#)

[Other Ways to Apply](#)

You can call us at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**) to apply over the phone. You can also request a paper application, or you can schedule an appointment to apply at [your local Social Security office](#).

For help completing your application, see [Instructions for Completing the Application for \*Extra Help\* with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs](#) (SSA-1020-INST). The instructions are only guidelines and **not to be used as applications**.

These instructions are also available in other languages in our [Multilanguage Gateway](#).

## Appeal A Decision

If you disagree with the decision we made about your eligibility for *Extra Help*, complete an [Appeal of Determination for \*Extra Help\* with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs](#) . We also provide [Instructions for Completing the Appeal](#) .

## Once You Receive *Extra Help*

If you are already receiving *Extra Help*, we must review your eligibility periodically. We'll ask you to complete the [Review of Your Eligibility for \*Extra Help\*](#) (SSA-1026B) to ensure you're still eligible for *Extra Help* and receiving all the benefits you deserve.

## Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)

With the [Medicare Savings Programs](#), you can get help from your state, paying your Medicare premiums. In some cases, MSPs may also pay Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and Medicare Part B (medical insurance) deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments if you meet certain conditions. If you qualify for certain MSPs, you automatically qualify to get *Extra Help* paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage. To learn more, read [Get help with your Medicare costs](#) (CMS Product No. 10126).

## Related Information

- [Understanding The \*Extra Help\* With Your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan](#) (Publication No. 05-10508).
- [Your Guide to Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage](#) (CMS Product No. 11109)

- [Quick Facts about Medicare Plans and Protecting Your Personal Information](#) (CMS Product No. 11147)
- [Other CMS Medicare Publications](#)
- [State Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program \(SHIP\)](#)
- [Extra Help program guide for organizations](#)
- [Medicare for Older Adults \(National Council on Aging\)](#)
- [Medicare Rx - Connect](#)

