

LOW INCOME SUBSIDY

Medicare beneficiaries who have limited income and resources may qualify for extra help to pay for prescription drugs costs. This low-income subsidy (LIS) from Medicare provides financial assistance for beneficiaries who have limited income and resources. Those who are eligible for this low-income subsidy will get help paying for their monthly premium, yearly deductible, prescription coinsurance and copayments and no gap in coverage.

Some people are automatically eligible for the low-income subsidy. Those include people who are:

- full benefit dual eligibles (Medicare + Medicaid);
- Social Security Income (SSI) recipients with Medicare;
- Medicare Savings Programs participants.



Some people must apply through the Social Security Administration.

Oklahoma's Senior Health Insurance Counseling Program (SHIP) can help with this process. Trained counselors will assist you in filling out the application by asking you some questions about your income and your assets, and using that information to complete the online form. The application is then forwarded directly to the Social Security Administration on their secure website for processing.

« FAST FACTS »

With help of the "Benefits CheckUp" program, over 2,829,903 people have found over 9.8 billion worth of annual benefits they deserve.

Source: <http://www.benefitscheckup.org>

The Extra Help is estimated to be worth about \$4,000 per year.

Source: Electronic Fact Sheet :
Social Security Online
<http://www.ssa.gov>

CRITERIA FOR "EXTRA HELP"

Medicare beneficiaries with income below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL):

For the year 2011:

- Monthly income for individuals - below \$1,353.75
- Monthly income for married person living with spouse - below \$1,821.25
- Resource limit for individual - below \$12,640
- Resource limit for married person living with spouse - below \$25,260

Generally, those who qualify for LIS:

- Pay no Part D Plan Premiums or deductibles
- Pay \$1.10 to \$2.50 for generic drug prescriptions*
- Pay \$3.30 to \$6.60 for brand-name drug prescriptions*

(*depending on income level)

For more information and application assistance, please contact Oklahoma SHIP at 800-763-2828.

