



**SOCIAL SECURITY**



## **How to Get Help With Your Medicare Costs**

We are writing to let you know how you can get help paying your Medicare costs. You may be able to get help paying your Medicare prescription drug coverage costs and Medicare Part B (medical insurance) premiums and other expenses. Some people also get help with their Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) costs.

### **Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs**

The Extra Help program helps pay your Medicare prescription drug plan costs. If you have little income, few resources, and a Medicare card, you may be able to get Extra Help. To get Extra Help:

- Your yearly income should be less than \$16,335 if you are single or \$22,065 if you are married and living together. You can have more income if you or your spouse works, other people who live with you rely on you for support, or you live in Alaska or Hawaii.
- Your resources (such as money in a bank, stocks, or bonds) should not total more than \$12,640 if you are single or \$25,260 if you are married and living together. Certain things you own, like your house, car, life insurance, and up to \$1,500 per person in burial expenses do not count as resources.

To apply for Extra Help or get more information, contact Social Security. You may visit <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i1020/main.html> to apply online and get more information. You may also call Social Security at **1-800-772-1213**. TTY users may call 1-800-325-0778.

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## The Medicare Savings Programs

The Medicare Savings Programs can help with Medicare costs like your monthly Part B premiums. To get this help:

- Your monthly income should be less than \$1,246 if you are single, or \$1,675 if you are married and living together. Some States, such as Alaska and Hawaii, let you have more income. You also can have more income if you or your spouse works.
- Your resources (such as money in a bank, stocks, or bonds) should not total more than \$6,680 if you are single, or \$10,020 if you are married and living together. Some States let you have more resources. Also, your house, car, and up to \$1,500 per person in burial expenses do not count as resources.

When you file an application for Extra Help, you can start the application process to get help under the Medicare Savings Programs. Social Security will send information to your State unless you tell us on your Extra Help application not to send it.

You also can call your State medical assistance (Medicaid) office to apply for Medicare Savings Programs or get more information. You can get the office's phone number by calling **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. TTY users may call 1-877-486-2048. You also may visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the Internet. Your State Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (SHIP) also can help answer Medicare questions. The contact information for your local SHIP is on the back of your *Medicare & You* handbook and online at [www.medicare.gov/contacts/organization-search-criteria.aspx](http://www.medicare.gov/contacts/organization-search-criteria.aspx).



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