

Social Security Administration

Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs

Important Information

Date:

APPLICANT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY ST ZIP CODE

In the past, we found you were not eligible for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs. We may have good news for you.

A new law will apply to applications filed beginning January 2010. You may be eligible for Extra Help now, even if you were not in the past. Starting in January 2010, we will no longer count the value of any life insurance policy as a resource. And, we will no longer count payments other people make for your food and shelter as income. You will need to file a new application if you want us to use the new rules to decide if you can get Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs.

Are You Now Eligible for Extra Help?

To qualify for Extra Help:

- Your resources (such as money in a bank, stocks, or bonds) must be limited to \$12,510 for an individual or \$25,010 for a married couple living together. We **do not** count your house, car, and life insurance as resources.

And

- Your annual income must be limited to \$16,245 for an individual or \$21,855 for a married couple living together. Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some help. Some examples would be if you or your spouse support other family members who live with you, either of you have earnings from work, or you live in Alaska or Hawaii.

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How To Apply

If you think you may be eligible for Extra Help, it is easy to apply. Just complete Social Security's Application for Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs (form SSA-1020). Here's how:

- Apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov;
- Call our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to request that an application be mailed to you; or
- Apply at your local Social Security office.

After you apply, Social Security will review your application. We will send you a letter to let you know if you are eligible for the Extra Help.

If You Have Questions

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

To learn more about the Medicare prescription drug plans and when you can enroll, please 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.

Michael J. Astrue
Commissioner of Social Security