



Medicare Part D Extra Help Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Guide for Healthcare Providers

**Your patients may be
eligible for Extra Help!**

This information is as of February 2025 and is subject to change. This is not a guarantee of payment, coverage, or reimbursement. Actual coverage and reimbursement decisions are made by the health plan. Contact the health plan to obtain complete and current information regarding coverage.

What is Extra Help?

Medicare Part D Extra Help is a program that may help eligible patients reduce out-of-pocket (OOP) costs for their prescription drugs¹

The Extra Help program reduces eligible patients' OOP insurance costs.^{2,3}



Premiums may be as low as

\$0

with Extra Help



Deductibles may be as low as

\$0

with Extra Help

Co-pays may be as low as*

\$1.60

for generic/preferred
multi-source drugs
with Extra Help



\$4.80

for brand name
drugs
with Extra Help

Those enrolled in the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, often called Medicare Part D, may be eligible to receive Extra Help.⁴

*The co-pays listed here are the maximum co-pays for eligible beneficiaries with income up to or at 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL). For eligible beneficiaries with income between 100% and 150% of the FPL, the maximum co-pay for generic/preferred multi-source drugs is \$4.90 and the maximum co-pay for brand name drugs is \$12.15.²

Which patients may be eligible to receive Extra Help?

In order to qualify for any level of LIS (“Extra Help”), patients must be enrolled in Medicare Part D and meet certain criteria.⁴

Patients with Medicare Parts A and/or B qualify for full Extra Help subsidy and are automatically enrolled if^{1*}:



- Patient has Medicaid
- Patient has Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

OR IS ENROLLED UNDER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING



- Qualified Medicare beneficiary
- Specified low-income Medicare beneficiary
- Qualified individual under a state’s Medicaid plan

Qualifying patients would receive a **purple**⁵, **yellow**⁶, or **green**⁷ letter from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

As of 2024, there is no longer a partial benefit program. Everyone who is eligible for partial Extra Help will receive full Extra Help benefits²

*Qualified Disabled Working Individuals (QDWI) are not eligible for Extra Help.

Medicare Part D Extra Help LIS FAQs



How would a patient or caregiver know if the beneficiary is eligible for Extra Help?



They would have received a **purple**, **yellow**, or **green** letter from CMS.

The **purple** letter notifies patients that they have qualified for LIS for Medicare prescription drug coverage and have been automatically enrolled in LIS without applying for it.⁵

The **yellow** letter notifies patients that they'll be automatically enrolled in an LIS Medicare Prescription Drug Plan if they haven't joined a plan on their own.⁶

The **green** letter notifies patients who receive SSI benefits, patients who belong to a Medicare Savings Program, or patients who apply and qualify for LIS that they're eligible and haven't yet joined a Medicare drug plan.⁷

If the patient did not receive a letter, they can apply at any time during the year.¹



What are the income and resource thresholds for Extra Help?



To qualify for Extra Help, patients must submit information on their income and their financial resources to ensure both are below the income and resource thresholds. The thresholds are updated annually.

2025 Eligibility Thresholds for Extra Help

Yearly Income^{2,8*}:	Married: <\$31,725	Single: <\$23,475
Assets^{9†}:	Married: <\$32,130	Single: <\$16,100

*These values have been calculated using the 2025 poverty guidelines for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

†These values do not include burial expenses.

Q How can patients get ready to apply for Extra Help?

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For patients to apply, they will need to determine the monetary value of the things they own outside of their primary residence, vehicles, burial plots, life insurance policies, or personal possessions.¹⁰



Patients will need to review their annual household income from wages, pensions, investments, and other income types.¹⁰



Finally, patients will need to gather necessary records to complete the application.¹⁰

Documents that may help patients prepare include, but are not limited to, the following^{10,11}:

- Social Security card
- Tax returns
- Payroll slips
- Bank account statements, including checking, savings, and certificates of deposit
- Individual retirement accounts, stocks, bonds, savings bonds, mutual funds, and other investment statements, as applicable
- Most recent Social Security benefits award letters or statements for Railroad Retirement benefits, Veterans benefits, pensions, and annuities, as applicable



How can patients apply for Extra Help?



Patients who did not receive a **purple**, **yellow**, or **green** letter can submit an application at any time during the year by:



Calling Social Security at **1-800-772-1213** to receive a paper application or to make an appointment¹⁰



Downloading the electronic application at **<https://secure.ssa.gov/i1020/start>**



Contacting their state Medicaid agency for assistance with applying; state Medicaid contact information can be found online at **<https://www.medicare.gov>** or by calling **1-800-MEDICARE** [1-800-633-4227]⁴

For additional information, you may refer to:



Understanding Extra Help:

<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10508.pdf>



Application process

information: <https://secure.ssa.gov/i1020/start>



Extra Help Forms:

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp/forms.html>



Or call the Social Security office using the toll-free number **1-800-772-1213**, Monday-Friday, 8AM-7PM local time

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