



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

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

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## 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 drugs.

The Extra Help program reduces eligible patients' OOP insurance costs to as low as \$1.35<sup>1</sup>:



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

**\$1.35**

for generic drugs with Extra Help



**\$4.00**

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.<sup>2</sup>

## 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 the following criteria<sup>2</sup>:

**Patients could be automatically enrolled and qualify for full Extra Help subsidy if<sup>3</sup>:**



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

**OR IS  
ENROLLED  
AS**



- Qualified Medicare beneficiary
- Specified low-income Medicare beneficiary
- Qualifying individual under a State’s Medicaid Plan

Patient would receive a **purple**<sup>4</sup>, **yellow**<sup>5</sup>, or **green**<sup>6</sup> letter from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

## Medicare Part D Extra Help LIS FAQs

**Q** What is the difference between a full subsidy and a partial subsidy for Extra Help?

**A** Patients who qualify for a full subsidy have little or no premium, whereas patients who receive a partial subsidy may only receive 25% to 75% premium support.<sup>3</sup> Copay amounts will also be less for patients qualifying for a full subsidy benefit.<sup>1</sup>

## Q How would a patient or caregiver know if they have Extra Help?

A They 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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

The **green** letter notifies patients who get SSI benefits, patients who belong to Medicare Savings Program, or patients who apply and qualify for LIS that they're eligible and haven't yet joined a Medicare drug plan.<sup>6</sup>

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

## Q What are income and resource thresholds for Extra Help?

A To qualify for either a full subsidy or a partial subsidy, 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.<sup>7,8</sup>

### 2023 Eligibility Thresholds for full or partial subsidy Extra Help

#### Full Extra Help Subsidy Thresholds:

<b>Yearly Income<sup>7</sup>:</b>	<b>Married:</b> \$26,622	<b>Single:</b> \$19,683
<b>Assets<sup>8</sup>:</b>	<b>Married:</b> \$13,630	<b>Single:</b> \$9,090

#### Partial Extra Help Subsidy Thresholds:

<b>Yearly Income<sup>7</sup>:</b>	<b>Married:</b> \$29,580	<b>Single:</b> \$21,870
<b>Assets<sup>8</sup>:</b>	<b>Married:</b> \$30,240	<b>Single:</b> \$15,160

## Q How can patients get ready to apply for Extra Help?<sup>9</sup>

A



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.



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



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

### Documents that may help patients prepare include<sup>2</sup>:

- 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 appointment<sup>9</sup>



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



Contacting their state Medicaid 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]<sup>10</sup>

## 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 to Friday, 7 AM to 7 PM.

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