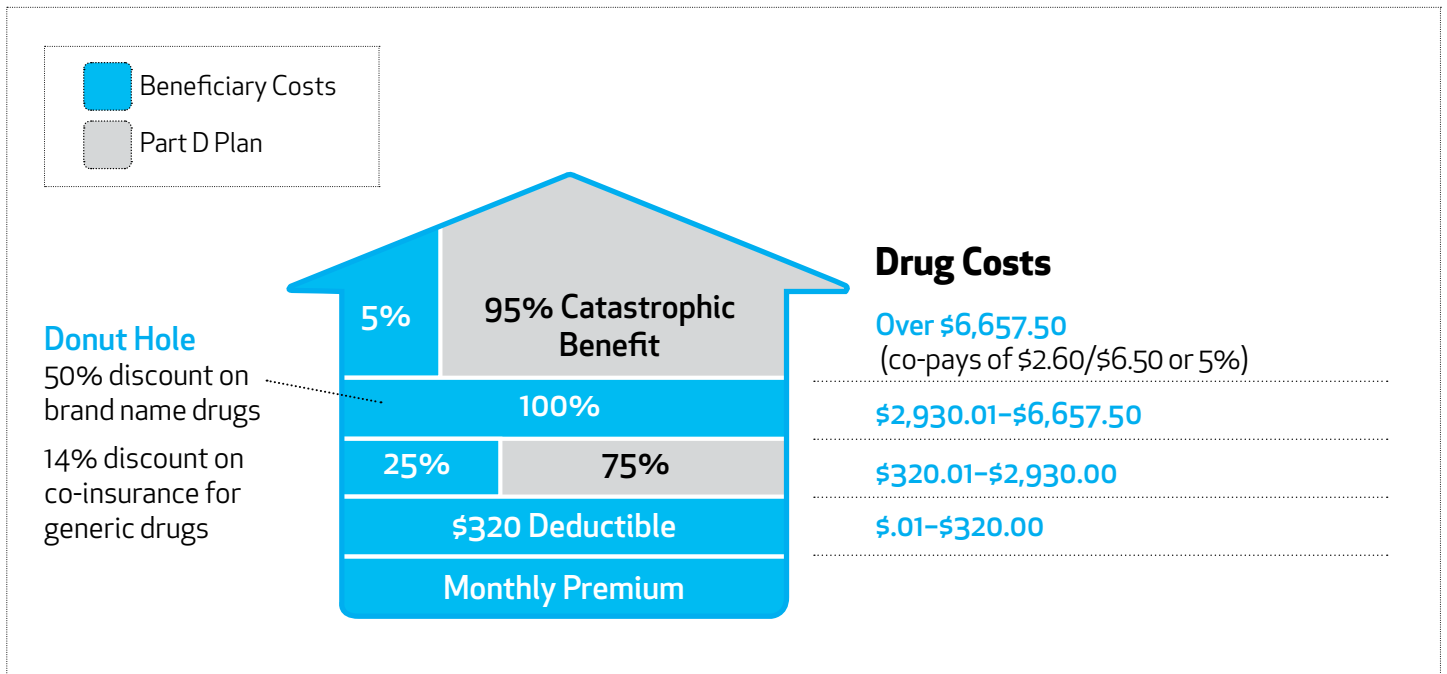


2012 Part D Standard benefit

No Extra Help (LIS)



Programs to Help You Save Money

Medicare Savings Programs

If you are one of the many Minnesotans who worry about how to pay for your Medicare Part B premium and prescription drugs, there may be help available for you. Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) are three options for Minnesotans to help lower out of pocket Medicare costs. If you qualify for one of the Medicare Saving Programs, you qualify for Extra Help with prescription drug costs (LIS) that could save you more than \$4,000 in prescription drug costs alone in 2012.

What are the Medicare Savings Programs?

There are three types of MSPs available:

- Qualified Individual (QI)
- Service Limited Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)
- Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)
- All three pay the Medicare Part B premium for you. In 2012, the Medicare Part B premium will be \$99.90. This alone could save you over \$1,190 in 2012. QMB also helps pay for other out-of-pocket expenses, such as your Medicare Part A and B premiums, deductibles, co-insurance and co-pays. While the asset limit is the same for each Medicare Savings Program, the income

limits do vary. A chart is available on page 22 that explains what the limits are for each Medicare Savings Program.

How does this help with my prescription drug costs?

If you are enrolled in an MSP, you automatically receive what is called the "Low-Income Subsidy", also known as LIS or Full Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Part D costs. There are different levels of Full Extra Help (LIS), but all reduce your out-of-pocket costs for the Medicare Prescription Drug Part D benefit. If you receive Full Extra Help (LIS) and you are enrolled in one of the "benchmark" Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plans, you will not have to pay a monthly premium for the plan. If you choose to enroll in a "non-benchmark plan", you will have to pay a portion of the monthly premium. With Full Extra Help (LIS), you will not need to pay an annual Medicare Prescription Drug Part D benefit deductible and your co-payments for prescription drugs will be significantly lower for both brand name and generic prescription drugs. Also, you will not have a Medicare Prescription Drug Part D donut hole or coverage gap which is when most people have to pay full price for their Medicare prescription drugs until a certain dollar amount in Medicare Part D drug costs is reached.

What is a benchmark plan?

A benchmark plan is a stand alone Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan available to Minnesotans with Full Extra Help (LIS) at a \$0 premium. Those without Full Extra Help (LIS) can enroll in the plan, but they will pay a monthly premium. The Senior LinkAge Line® can help compare 2012 benchmark plans to ensure all of your prescription drugs are on the formulary. Senior LinkAge Line® can also assist with requesting exceptions if a drug is not on a benchmark plan's formulary. Please see page 23 for a list of the 2012 benchmark plans.

How do I apply for a Medicare Savings Program?

You will have to fill out a Minnesota Health Care Programs Application. You can access the application three different ways.

1. You can find it online at the Minnesota Department of Human Services website at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Public/DHS-3417-ENG>.
2. You can contact your county social services department and they will mail an application to you.
3. Finally, you can contact the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433. The Senior LinkAge Line® will assist you with obtaining an application form, including helping you complete it. *Applications are processed by county human service departments. There are no liens or estate recovery associated with Medicare Savings Programs.*

Additional Extra Help (LIS) with Prescription Drug Costs

If you are not eligible for the Medicare Savings Programs, but still need help with prescription drug costs, there may be another Extra Help or Low Income Subsidy (LIS) option. Extra Help (LIS) is available through the Social Security Administration for those who meet the income and asset limits. You may have tried applying for Extra Help in the past and did not qualify. Because of recent changes in the income and asset limits, you may want to apply again to see if you now qualify.

How does Extra Help (LIS) work?

If you qualify for Extra Help, you will receive some help with your Medicare prescription drug costs. There are two types of Extra Help. There is Full and Partial Extra Help. If you qualify for Partial Extra Help you will pay a lower premium for your Medicare Part D plan, pay a smaller deductible, and have lower co-pays. There is

no coverage gap or “donut hole”. If you qualify for Full Extra Help, you will not have a premium if you enroll in a “benchmark plan”. You will not have an annual deductible and will not pay more than a \$2.60 co-pay for generic medications and \$6.50 co-pay for each brand-name prescription drug that is on your Medicare Part D plan formulary.

How do I apply for Extra Help?

You must apply through the Social Security Administration using a paper application or the online application. You can find the online application at <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i1020/main.html>. Senior LinkAge Line® is available to help you complete the application by calling 1-800-333-2433.

I received an application for Extra Help in the mail. I already receive this benefit. What do I have to do?

Every year the Social Security Administration selects individuals to go through a “redetermination process” to see if they still qualify for Extra Help (LIS). If you receive an Extra Help application in the mail from the Social Security Administration, **you must return the application within 30 days to continue to receive Extra Help (LIS)**. If you do not return the application, you will lose your Extra Help (LIS) benefit. If you would like help filling out the application or have questions about this process, please call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 for assistance.

What if I do not qualify for Extra Help (LIS), but I need help paying for my prescription drugs?

Patient assistance programs, which are offered by pharmaceutical companies, could be an option to people who cannot afford to buy their prescription medications. These programs have their own income and asset guidelines to determine patient eligibility. Please call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 for assistance in obtaining information and application support for these programs.

What other benefits are available to assist with living costs?

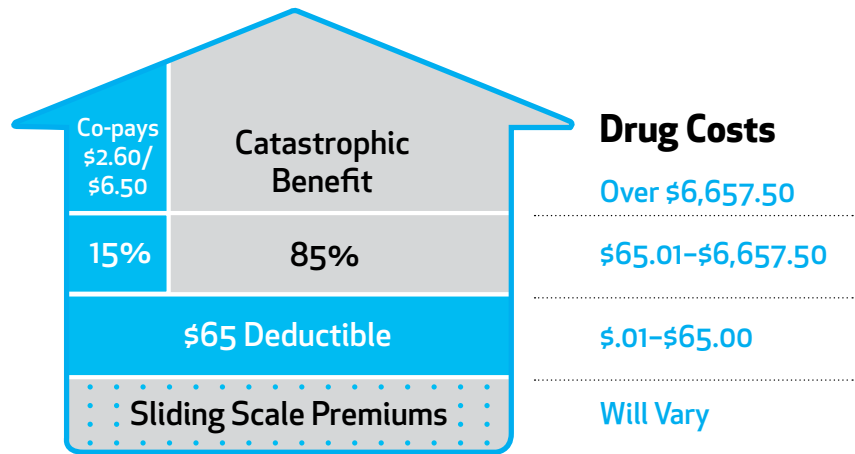
There are other programs available to individuals who feel they need assistance with daily living costs.

Food Support helps individuals stretch their dollars to purchase nutritious foods. The average monthly benefit in Minnesota is \$227.

2012 Part D Partial Extra Help (LIS)

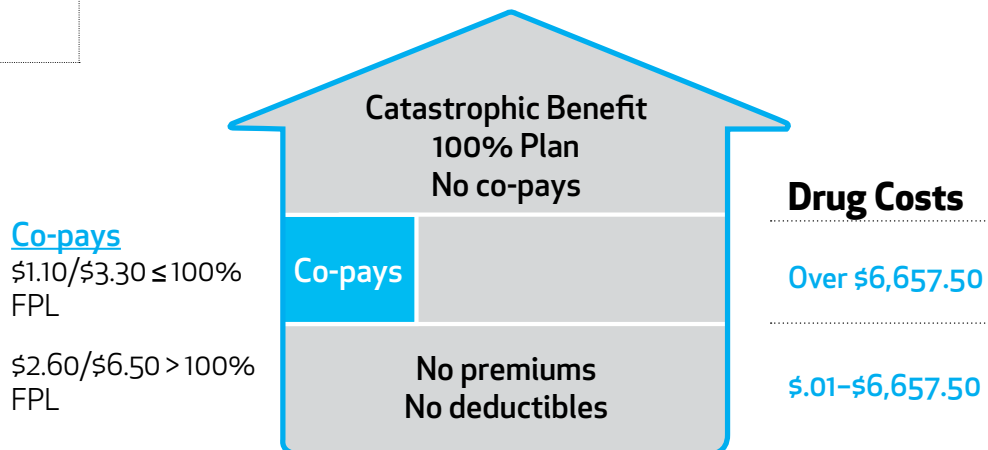
- Lower Premiums
- Lower Deductible
- Lower Co-insurance
- No Donut Hole

■ Beneficiary Costs
■ Part D Plan



- No Premiums if in Benchmark Plan
- No Deductible
- No Co-insurance
- No Donut Hole
- No Monthly Cap on co-pays

■ Beneficiary Costs
■ Part D Plan



Eligibility and asset changes were made to the Food Support program allowing more Minnesotans to become eligible for the program. There is no asset limit and the income guidelines have increased from 130% to 165% of the federal poverty guidelines. This equals monthly income limits of \$1,490 for a single person or \$2,004 for a couple.

For assistance applying for Food Support, please contact the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433. An application is also available online at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5223-ENG>. You may also call the Food Support Hotline at 1-800-657-3698.

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay home heating costs.

- Households at or below 50 percent of the state

median income are eligible

- Grants are based on household size, income, fuel type and energy usage
- Households with the lowest income and highest fuel costs receive the highest grants
- Funds are available for renters or homeowners
- Federally funded through U.S. Department of Human Services
- For additional information, call 1-800-657-3710 or for an application, visit http://www.state.mn.us/mn/externalDocs/Commerce/Application_formEnglish_092603031708_EnglishApp.pdf.

Phone Related Discount Programs

LifeLine provides eligible subscribers with a monthly credit on the basic local service portion of their telephone

Programs that can save you money if you have Medicare

Name of Program	Monthly Income Guidelines	Asset/ Resource Guidelines	Summary of Program	How to Apply for Program
Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) and Extra Help Partial LIS	\$1,362-\$1,226 single \$1,839-\$1,656 couple	\$12,640 single \$25,260 couple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced monthly Medicare Part D plan premium • Reduced annual Part D deductible • Reduced Medicare Part D out-of-pocket costs and co-payments • No Medicare Part D donut hole 	<p>Contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov.</p> <p>You can also call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 for help with completing the application in person or online.</p>
Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) and Extra Help Full LIS	\$1,226 or less single \$1,656 or less couple	\$8,180 single \$13,020 couple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No monthly premium with some plans • No annual deductible • No co-insurance • No Medicare Part D donut hole • Pay only co-pays for each prescription 	<p>You will automatically be enrolled if you are on Medical Assistance or enrolled in a Medicare Savings Program.</p> <p>You can also call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 for help with completing the application in person or online.</p> <p>Contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov.</p>
Qualified Individual (QI)	\$1,246 single \$1,676 couple	\$10,000 single \$18,000 couple	Pays your monthly Medicare Part B premium	Contact your local county social services office or call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433.
Service Limited Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)	\$1,109 single \$1,491 couple	\$10,000 single \$18,000 couple	Pays your monthly Medicare Part B premium	Contact your local county social services office or call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433.
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)	\$928 single \$1,247 couple	\$10,000 single \$18,000 couple	Covers all Medicare Part A and Part B deductibles, co-insurance, co-pays, and pays your monthly Part B premium.	Contact your local county social services office or call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433.

Please note: If you enroll in a Medicare Savings Program (QMB, SLMB or QI), you will automatically receive the Full LIS/Extra Help

bill. The credit applies on the main home telephone number listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. LifeLine subscribers also may receive free blocking of long distance calling on their telephone line. Additional benefits are available to persons living on Tribal lands/reservation. Depending on the phone company, you can save up to \$10 a month. Tribal lands residents may receive up to \$35 under the discount, but must pay at least \$1.00 per month

Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for the main home telephone line. This reduction is 50 percent of applicable charges or \$30.00, whichever is less. Link-Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside the home and is available to eligible subscribers only once per home address.

Telephone Assistance Program provides a monthly discount of \$2.50 on home phone service (excludes cell phones).

Not all telephone companies offer Lifeline, Link-up, or TAP discounts. Contact your phone company and ask for a Lifeline/Link-Up/TAP application, or download an application by visiting http://www.puc.state.mn.us/portal/groups/public/documents/puc_pdf_consumers/012226.pdf.

If your local telephone company is not authorized to provide Lifeline, Link-Up or TAP discounts, contact the Department of Commerce at telecom.commerce@state.mn.us or 651-297-3375 to find an authorized provider.

Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program provides free specialized telecommunications equipment to income eligible Minnesotans who have trouble using the telephone due to a hearing loss, speech disability or physical disability. Call 1-800-657-3663 (voice), 1-888-206-6555 (TTY), or visit the TED Web site at www.tedprogram.org for more information.

2012 Medicare Part D Stand Alone Benchmark Plans in Minnesota

2012 Minnesota Benchmark Amount: \$36.02

- Aetna CVS/pharmacy Prescription Drug Plan
- CIGNA Medicare Rx Plan One
- Community CCRx Basic
- EnvisionRxPlus Silver
- First Health Part D Premier
- Humana Walmart- Preferred Rx Plan
- Medco Medicare Prescription Plan - Value
- Silverscript CVS Caremark Value
- Sterling Windsor Rx

Medicare and People with Disabilities: Important things to know if you are under age 65

People under 65 are entitled to Medicare if they receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, have End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is a federal program that provides monthly cash benefits to you and certain family members if you have worked, paid Social Security taxes, and now have a disability that prevents you from working.

When you apply for SSDI, it may take 3-5 months for the Social Security Administration to make a decision in your case. If you are in need of public health insurance you may want to consider applying at your local county social services for a Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP). To qualify for some Minnesota Health Care Programs, like Medical Assistance (MA), you must be certified disabled either by the Social Security Administration or by Minnesota's State Medical Review Team (SMRT). SMRT is a division within Minnesota's Department of Human Services that decides whether or not you meet the state criteria for "blind" or "disabled" status.

The SSDI waiting period for Medicare Coverage

If you're under age 65, you must qualify for and receive SSDI benefits to be eligible for Medicare. Once approved for SSDI, you must wait 5 months before the SSDI cash benefit begins, then an additional 24 months before you begin receiving Medicare benefits. If you receive benefits because you have Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS),