



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance

2501 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, N. C. 27699-2501
Tel 919-855-4000

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Mark T. Benton, Director
William W. Lawrence, Jr., M.D., Senior Deputy Director

June 7, 2007

Dear County Director of Social Services:

The Social Security Administration (SSA) began mailing outreach letters to low-income Medicare beneficiaries on May 16. These letters to be mailed through June 26 inform low-income Medicare beneficiaries about the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) and the extra help available for Medicare Prescription drug plan costs. The Medicare Savings Programs are MQB-Q, B, or E in North Carolina. As people in the community with Medicare may call or visit your office for assistance, we wanted you to be aware of these mailings. Attached are copies of the letters being mailed by SSA.

SSA is required by federal law to do these mailings. Ensure staff explain requirements of the programs and do not discourage persons from applying.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative or the Medicaid Eligibility Unit at 919-855-4000.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Benton

Enclosures





SOCIAL SECURITY



Date:

SSA-L441—QDWI program

1. Address
2. Address
3. Address
4. Address
5. Address
6. Address

HELP WITH YOUR MEDICARE COSTS IS AVAILABLE

You may be able to get help with your Medicare costs from your State. You can ask your State to help you buy Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) if:

- You still have a disabling impairment, and
- You are younger than 65, and
- You no longer have free Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance), and
- You are not getting medical assistance from your State, and
- You are an individual with resources (such as money in the bank or stocks or bonds) worth \$4,000 or less, or you and your spouse (if married and living together) have resources of \$6,000 or less. Resources do **not** include certain items, such as your home, your home furnishings, a car, burial plots, and \$1,500 in a burial account, and
- Your monthly income is less than **\$3,489** or your and your spouse's monthly income (if married and living together) is less than **\$4,649**. These income limits will change slightly in 2008.

Note: Income limits are slightly higher in Alaska and Hawaii. Other States may also have more generous income and/or resource requirements.

If you think you might be able to get this help getting Medicare, or if you are not sure, call your medical assistance (Medicaid) office. You can get the local phone number for these organizations by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048).

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HELP WITH YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage - If you have Medicare, you can also get Medicare's voluntary prescription drug coverage. You must have Medicare Hospital Insurance (Part A) or Supplementary Medical Insurance (Part B) or both to join a Medicare prescription drug plan and get this prescription drug coverage. If you have limited income and resources, you may be able to get extra help paying for your prescription drug costs if:

- Your average monthly income is less than \$1,296 and you live alone or if you live only with your spouse and your total monthly income is less than \$1,731. Your income could be higher if you live in Alaska or Hawaii, support other people who are living with you, or if you have earnings from work, and
- You have resources (such as money in a bank, stocks or bonds) worth \$10,210 or less (\$20,410 or less if you are married and living with your spouse). The resource limits can be slightly higher (an additional \$1,500 per person) if you will use some of your money for burial expenses.

If you think you may qualify you should fill out an **Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs** right away. If you have sent it in already, you should hear soon if you qualify for the extra help.

For more information about getting extra help with your prescription drug costs or if you want to apply for the extra help, call Social Security at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY users should call **1-800-325-0778**) or visit www.socialsecurity.gov. You also can apply at your State medical assistance office.

To learn more about Medicare prescription drug coverage and how to join a plan, call **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227; TTY users should call **1-877-486-2048**) or visit www.medicare.gov on the Internet.

/s/

Michael J. Astrue
Commissioner
Social Security Administration

/s/

Leslie V. Norwalk
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



SOCIAL SECURITY



Date:

1. Address
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SSA-L446 for LIS Only (income of at least
135%FPL+\$20 but less than 150% FPL+\$20)

HELP WITH YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

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- Your average monthly income is less than \$1,296 and you live alone or if you live only with your spouse and your total monthly income is less than \$1,731. Your income could be higher if you live in Alaska or Hawaii, support other family members who live with you or have earnings from work, and
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/s/

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Commissioner
Social Security Administration

/s/

Leslie V. Norwalk
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



SOCIAL SECURITY



1. Address
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Date:

SSA-L447—Beneficiary has LIS, not MSP
(or LIS application is pending or awarded,
no buy-in)

HELP WITH YOUR MEDICARE COSTS IS AVAILABLE

Help with Medicare Costs

You may be able to get help with your Medicare costs from your State. The Medicare Savings Programs help people who have limited income and resources pay for their Medicare expenses. The help that you can get from the Medicare Savings Programs can save you more than \$1,100 a year. If you are paying a premium for Medicare Part A, the Medicare Savings Programs may pay it for you. You could qualify if:

- You have Medicare Part A, also known as Hospital Insurance, and
- Your resources (such as money in a bank, stocks or bonds) are worth \$4,000 or less, or you and your spouse (if married and living together) have resources of \$6,000 or less. Resources do **not** include such things as the home where you live, your home furnishings, a car, burial plots and \$1,500 in a burial account, and
- Your monthly income is less than **\$1,169** or your and your spouse's monthly income (if married and living together) is less than **\$1,561**. These income limits will change slightly in 2008.

Note: Income limits are slightly higher in Alaska and Hawaii. Other States may also have higher income and resource requirements.

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If you think you might be able to get this help with your Medicare costs, or if you are not sure, call your State medical assistance (Medicaid) office or you can call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048)** or visit www.medicare.gov on the Internet.

/s/

Michael J. Astrue
Commissioner
Social Security Administration

/s/

Leslie V. Norwalk
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



SOCIAL SECURITY



Date:

SSA-L448—Beneficiary has no LIS or MSP

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- You have Medicare Part A, also known as Hospital Insurance and
- Your resources (such as money in a bank, stocks or bonds) are worth \$4,000 or less, or you and your spouse (if married and living together) have resources of \$6,000 or less. Resources do **not** include such things as the home where you live, your home furnishings, a car, burial plots and \$1,500 in a burial account, and
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