



# Lowering Your Drug Costs

There are programs to help people with limited resources pay for their drugs. These include “Extra Help” and State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs.

## *Medicare’s “Extra Help” Program*

People with limited incomes may qualify for “Extra Help” to pay for their prescription drug costs. If you qualify, Medicare could pay up to 75% or more of your drug costs including monthly prescription drug premiums, annual deductibles, and coinsurance. Additionally, those who qualify will not have a coverage gap or late enrollment penalty. Many people are eligible and don’t even know it.

To see if you qualify, call:

- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048, 24 hours a day/7days a week
- The Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778 (applications)
- Your State Medicaid Office (applications)

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## *State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program*

Many states have programs called State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (SPAPs) that help people pay for prescription drugs based on their financial need, age, or medical condition. To learn more about the program, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program:

Massachusetts: 1-800-243-4636 (Option #2)

Rhode Island: 1-401-462-3000

Vermont: 1-800-250-8427

Connecticut: A full-service SPAP is not available in this state.

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## *Other ways to lower your prescription drug costs*

- Look into generic drugs. Ask your doctor if there are generics that will work as well as your current brand-name drugs.
- Ask your doctor about less expensive brand-name drugs.
- Consider using mail-order pharmacies.
- Find out if your state offers help paying for drug costs.
- Find out if the company that makes your drug offers help paying for it.

We can help you understand your benefits. Please contact us at:

Massachusetts: 1-888-543-4917

Rhode Island: 1-888-620-1748

Vermont: 1-888-620-1746

Connecticut: 1-888-620-1747

24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TTY/TDD users can call 711.