



Prescription Drug Assistance Programs at a Glance

State of Illinois Programs

Program	Prescriptions Covered	Income Guidelines	Benefit	Contact & Misc. Info
Illinois Cares Rx Group 1. (Formerly SeniorCare)	Most prescription medications	Illinois resident; Citizen or qualified non-citizen; Age 65; Income no more than \$19,140 for individual; \$25,660 for married couple 200% of the federal poverty level	Co-pay \$1 for generic; \$4 for brand-name. \$1,750 cap, participant then pays 20% cost of prescription plus co-pay. Medicare beneficiaries must apply for Extra Help with Social Security even if resources exceed \$11,500 for one person or \$23,000 for two persons. <i>Keep your determination letter from Social Security.</i>	Illinois Department on Aging Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY) Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, (formerly Department of Public Aid) Health Benefits Hotline: 1-800-226-0768 www.seniorcareillinois.com
Illinois Cares Rx Group 2. (Formerly Circuit Breaker Pharmaceutical Assistance)	10 disease categories: Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, glaucoma, heart and blood pressure problems, lung disease and smoking-related illnesses, multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, and Parkinson's disease	Age 65 or disabled; Income of less than \$21,218 for individual; \$28,480 for married couple. 220% of federal poverty level.	No co-pay with \$5 annual card. \$3 co-pay with \$25 annual card. \$2,000 cap; <i>then</i> participant pays 20% of cost of prescription and co-pay. Medicare beneficiaries must apply for Extra Help with Social Security even if resources exceed \$11,500 for one person or \$23,000 for two persons.	Illinois Department on Aging, Circuit Breaker Division 1-800-624-2459 www.cbrx.il.gov www.state.il.us/aging/ Call the Senior HelpLine for more information on "extra help," 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY).

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Illinois Rx Buying Club (\$10 fee)	All FDA-approved prescription drugs and available through participating pharmacies and the program's mail-order option.	Age 65 or disabled. Income not a factor. Cost: \$10 Circuit Breaker and Pharmaceutical Assistance participants are automatically enrolled.	An average savings of 24% on FDA-approved drugs with participating pharmacies and mail order.	1-800-215-3463 1-866-215-3479 (TTY) www.IllinoisRxBuyingClub.com Illinois Department on Aging Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966 www.state.il.us/aging
I-SaveRx	120 of the most common brand-name medications; Order of 90-day supply is required	No age or income limits	An average savings of 25-50% on medications from pharmacies in Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.	1-866-I-SAVE33 or 1-866-472-8333 www.I-SaveRx.net

Federal Programs

Program	Prescriptions Covered	Income Guidelines	Benefit	Contact & Misc. Info
<p>Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, also known as Medicare Part D</p> <p>Program for people with Medicare</p> <p>Prescription drug coverage under Medicare Part D begins January 2006.</p>	<p>Prescription drugs, biological products and insulin.</p> <p>Medical supplies associated with the injection of insulin such as syringes, needles, alcohol swabs and gauze.</p> <p>Not all covered drugs will be covered by each Medicare prescription drug plan. Each plan may develop a formulary or list of drugs.</p>	<p>No income guidelines; available to all people with Medicare. Apply between November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006, to avoid paying a higher monthly premium.</p>	<p>Part D premium is about \$32 a month. You pay \$250 annual deductible. After deductible, you pay 25% of your drug cost up to \$500 out-of-pocket, not including deductible.</p> <p>Medicare will pay 75% of your drug cost up to \$1,500. You pay 100% up to \$2,850 (known as the coverage gap). Once you reach a total of \$3,600 out-of-pocket, you pay \$2 co-pay for generics and \$5 for brand names or 5% of the drug cost. Then the catastrophic coverage begins where Medicare pays 95% of your drug costs.</p>	<p>www.medicare.gov</p> <p>Illinois Department on Aging Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966</p> <p>Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Insurance, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP): 1-800-548-9034</p>
<p>Extra Help for people with limited income and resources.</p> <p>Watch your mail for an Extra Help Application. Or, you can apply online at www.ssa.gov or contact the Social Security Administration.</p> <p>Important: Apply Now to be eligible for Illinois Cares Rx (formerly SeniorCare and Circuit Breaker Pharmaceutical Assistance).</p>	<p>Prescriptions covered under the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage</p>	<p>If you receive Medicare Savings Program – QMB, SLMB, QI1, SSI and Medicaid, you will be automatically enrolled in Extra Help.</p> <p>People with incomes below \$14,355 (single) and limited assets and people with incomes below \$19,245 (couple) and limited assets are eligible for Extra Help to pay for Medicare prescription drug premiums, deductibles and co-payments.</p>	<p>Some benefits may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no premiums or • sliding scale premiums • no deductible or reduced deductible • minimum co-pays and co-insurances. <p>Based upon income and assets.</p>	<p>Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213</p> <p>Apply for Extra Help online at www.ssa.gov</p> <p>Illinois Department on Aging Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966</p> <p>Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Insurance, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP): 1-800-548-9034</p>

Federal Programs

Program	Prescriptions Covered	Income Guidelines	Benefit	Contact & Misc. Info
Medicare Part B	Immunosuppressive drugs for a Medicare-covered organ transplant, certain anti-cancer treatment and antiemetic (anti-nausea) drugs	No income guidelines	Medicare pays 80% under Part B. Any co-pays and deductibles apply.	www.medicare.gov Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP): 1-800-548-9034
Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card (optional) These cards will expire on December 31, 2005. You may continue to use your card until you sign up for a new drug plan or until May 31, 2006, whichever comes first	All FDA approved medications	No income guidelines for cards up to \$30. People who receive Illinois Cares Rx, Group 1. formerly SeniorCare are not eligible. A special credit is available for those 135% below federal poverty level. If you apply: July to September - \$300; October to December - \$150.	Predicted up to 10-25% savings on prescription drugs. Many vendors, each offers different discounts on different drugs.	Medicare: 1-800-633-4227 www.medicare.gov Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Insurance, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP): 1-800-548-9034
Medicaid	All medications on this program's official list. Starting January 1, 2006, people with Medicare who receive full Medicaid benefits will no longer receive their drugs through Medicaid and will be automatically enrolled in Medicare prescription drug coverage.	Eligible for Medi-plan card or Spend-down, poverty level	Covers all prescriptions on this program's official list Starting Jan. 1, 2006, people with Medicare who receive full Medicaid benefits will no longer receive their drugs through Medicaid; will be automatically eligible for Extra Help and automatically enrolled in Medicare prescription drug coverage.	Local Department of Human Services Office: 1-800-843-6154
Tri-Care-for-Life (TFL) Program Military Retirees	All medications on this program's official list	Must be retired from military service, eligible for Medicare Part A, enrolled in Part B and registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System for benefits	\$3 co-pay for generic; \$9 cap for brand-name drugs	1-877-363-6337 U.S. Dept. of Defense Military Health System: www.tricare.osd.mil
U.S. Veterans' Administration	All medications on this program's official list	Must be honorably discharged and meet income criteria	\$7 per prescription item	U.S. Veterans' Administration: 1-800-827-1000; www.va.gov

Other Programs

Program	Prescriptions Covered	Income Guidelines	Benefit	Contact & Misc. Info
Medicare Supplemental Insurance Policies Insurance companies will no longer sell medical supplemental prescription drug plans after December 31, 2005.	Pharmaceuticals on this program's official list	Medicare Supplement plans H, I, J offer some Rx coverage, with co-pays and deductibles.	Contact SHIP for specific information on eligibility.	www.medicare.gov Ill. Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Insurance, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP): 1-800-548-9034
Manufacturer's Discount Drug Cards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together Rx • Lilly Answers • GlaxoKlineSmith Orange Card Last day to use Together Rx is December 31, 2005.	Each manufacturer determines the medications that will be low-cost or free and the eligibility criteria for its specific patient assistance program.	Must be enrolled in Medicare, no prescription coverage. Income guidelines vary by manufacturer – eligibility ranges from \$18,000 to \$30,000 for individual; \$24,000 to \$40,000 for a couple.	Discounts vary per manufacturer. Some provide a savings of 20% to 40% on allowable medications. Some charge \$12 to \$15 per prescription.	Contact each manufacturer directly by toll-free telephone number or web site. Together Rx is no longer accepting applications.
PhRMA Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Discount Program, Patient Assistance Programs	PhRMA offers a directory of prescription drug assistance programs that list the names of the drug, the company and the toll-free number to call.	Income guidelines vary per manufacturer. May receive some free or low-cost medications sent directly to your physician.	Varies per manufacturer; Check web site or call or write for a directory of eligibility guidelines.	Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America: www.phrma.org To obtain a directory, call 1-888-477-2669
Internet Order	Offered by many companies	Eligibility varies per company. Shipping and handling may apply	Discounts vary per company.	CVS.com DestinationRX.com DrugPlace.com
Mail Order	AARP	\$19.95 membership	20 to 40% discount	1-800-456-2277
Chain Drug Store Discounts	CVS, Walgreens	No membership fee	Benefits vary per company.	CVS: 1-888-607-4287
Tool/Web Sites	BenefitsCheckUp.Org	No income guidelines	Provides a comprehensive printout of eligible programs	www.benefitscheckup.org

This page updated 8/03/05 by the Illinois Department on Aging, Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY)

Web Sites and Tools

Agency/Company	Telephone	Website/Contact information	Information Available
Illinois Benefits	1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY)	www.illinoisbenefits.org	Educational screening and enrollment tools for health care benefits for consumers and professionals.
Medicare Rights Center	1-212-869-3850	www.medicareinteractive.org	Info about Medicare rights, benefits, and options
Medicare	1-800-633-4227	www.medicare.gov	Find out if you qualify for extra help; apply for extra help with Part D
Administration on Aging	1-202-619-0724	www.aoa.gov	Info about the Older Americans Act, services and programs provided to seniors
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid	1-877-267-2323	www.cms.hhs.gov	Info on anything related to Medicare and Medicaid
Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213	www.ssa.gov	Apply for extra help with Medicare Part D, also find out if you qualify for other retirement or disability benefits
Benefits Checkup	1-202-479-1200	www.benefitscheckup.org	Provides a comprehensive listing of eligible programs for pharmaceutical assistance as well as other services
Needy Meds	Not Available	www.needymeds.com	Provides guidelines to qualify for pharmaceutical manufacturer's assistance programs
Together Rx	1-800-444-4106	www.togetherrx.com	Prescription savings through several drug manufacturers
Make Medicare Work	312-223-9600	www.makemedicarework.org	Find Medicare training and events in your area.
Partnership for Prescription Assistance	1-888-477-2669	www.pparx.org	Screening tool for state, federal and manufacturer sponsored drug programs
Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)	1-800-548-9034	www.idfpr.com/DOI/Ship/ship_help.asp	Provides counseling, publications, and resources regarding Medicare and health insurance. Provides a yearly prescription drug guide
Medicare Advocacy	1-860-456-7790	www.medicareadvocacy.org	Information and FAQ's about Medicare prescription benefits as well as other Medicare services
Real Benefits	1-312-372-1339	www.realbenefits.org	Primarily for professional use to screen clients for eligibility for programs such as Medicaid, food stamps, etc.

Web Sites and Tools

Agency/Company	Telephone	Website/Contact information	Information Available
Eldercare Locator	1-800-677-1116	www.eldercare.gov	Links seniors and caregivers with the Aging office in any state
SeniorCare Prior Approval	1-800-252-8942 Voice 1-217-524-7264 Fax 1-800-642-7588 Automated	Not available	Pharmacists or Doctor may call to request prior approval for non-preferred drugs on the Senior Care formulary
Pharmaceutical Assistance Prior Approval	Express Scripts 1-800-417-8164	Not available	Pharmacists or Doctor may call to request prior approval for non-preferred drugs on the Pharmaceutical Assistance formulary.
Rx List	Not Available	http://rxlist.com/top200.htm	Find out the generic name of a medication, uses, side effects, etc.
Illinois Department on Aging Publications	1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY)	www.state.il.us/aging/1news_pubs/onlinepubs.htm	Download various brochures and publications
Illinois Department on Aging Pharmaceutical Assistance sites	1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY)	www.state.il.us/aging/1directory/directory-main.htm#rx-help	Find a local office to help fill out pharmaceutical applications and explain the various pharmaceutical options

Counseling and Education

Prescription Program Counseling and Education	Information to help you make an informed choice	Categories of concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra Help People with limited income and resources already receiving prescription drug assistance • Medical Savings Programs • Creditable Coverage Written information will be sent from the private plans prior to November 2005 to retirees. • Eligible participants who do not want prescription drug coverage but should understand the penalties if they elect the benefit later. 	To locate a Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP) site in your area, or for more information, call: Illinois Department on Aging Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966 Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Insurance, Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP): 1-800-548-9034
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