



# Learning about Medicare Savings Programs

Limited income?

**You may qualify for help** paying your Medicare premiums.

If you meet certain income and asset guidelines, you may be eligible for state assistance with paying your Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) premiums through **Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)**. In some cases, MSP can also help pay for Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) deductibles, coinsurance and copayments.

## How Medicare Savings Programs Work

There are four Medicare Savings Programs, each with different income and savings limits to qualify. The income eligibility criteria is based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is released on an annual basis. Below is a chart to help you learn more about each of the four Medicare Savings Programs. Each program has a monthly income limit, as well as savings and resource limits to qualify. Limits change each year but can be referenced on the [medicare.gov](http://medicare.gov) website.

Program Name	Qualifications	Program Benefits
<b>Qualifying Individual Program (QI)</b>	Must have Medicare Part A and limited income and resources. Must apply every year for QI benefits.	Pays for Medicare Part B premium. Also reimburses for premiums paid up to three months before your MSP effective date, and within the same year of that effective date.
<b>Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Program (SLMB)</b>	Must have Part A and limited income and resources.	Pays for Medicare Part B premium. Also reimburses for premiums paid up to three months before your MSP effective date, but unlike QI, you may be reimbursed for premiums from the previous calendar year.
<b>Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB)</b>	Must have limited income and assets.	Pays for Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, deductibles, coinsurance and/or copayments for providers in network.

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Program name	Qualifications	Program Benefits
<b>Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals Program (QDWI)</b>	May qualify if all of these apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have a disability.</li><li>• You're working.</li><li>• You lost your Social Security disability benefits and premium-free Medicare Part A because you returned to work.</li></ul>	Pays for Medicare Part A premium.

## Determining Your Savings and Assets – Countable Resources

The total value of your assets is determined using certain countable assets.

*These include:*

- ✔ Funds in a checking or savings account
- ✔ Stocks and bonds

*But DO NOT include:*

- ✔ Your home
- ✔ One car
- ✔ Furniture
- ✔ Burial plot and a specified allowance for burial expenses (if you have set that money aside)
- ✔ Other household and personal items



**Pro tip:** If you qualify for Medicare Savings Programs, you may also qualify for extra help paying for your Part D Prescription Drugs.

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