

SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

Northwest Regional Council
 600 Lakeway Drive, Suite 100
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 (360) 738-2500
 www.nwrcwa.org

Northwest Regional Council
 1650 Port Drive
 Burlington, WA 98233
 (360) 428-1301
 www.nwrcwa.org

Help with Medicare Costs and New Benefits

Help Available For Low-Income Beneficiaries

Do you need help paying Medicare premiums, deductibles, and co-insurance? Certain low-income Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for assistance paying Medicare expenses. The income guidelines are based on the federal poverty level, which changes annually in April. To qualify for the programs listed below, individuals must be entitled to Medicare Part A, meet monthly low-income guidelines, and have resources under \$6,680 for an individual, and \$10,020 for a couple.

In order to obtain an application for any of the programs contact:

- Senior Information & Assistance
 600 Lakeway Drive, Suite 100, Bellingham, WA 98225, (360) 738-2500
 or 1650 Port Drive, Burlington, WA 98233, (360) 428-1301
- Department of Social and Health Services – Community Services Office (DSHS -CSO)
 4101 Meridian Street, Bellingham, 1-877-501-2233
 or 900 East College Way #210, Mt Vernon, 1-877-501-2233

If your monthly income is at or below:

Individual \$908 Couple \$1,226

You may qualify for:

Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)

This program pays your Medicare premiums, (\$96.40 or more) deductibles, and co-insurance. In order to apply, you must complete a full DSHS Application for Benefits and return it to your local DSHS Community Service Office.

Individual \$1,090 Couple \$1,471

Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)

Individual \$1,226 Couple \$1,655

Expanded Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (ESLMB) (QI-1)

These programs pay your Medicare Part B premium (\$96.40 or more). In order to apply, you must complete a full DSHS Application for Benefits and return it to your local DSHS CSO.

Return applications to: DSHS
 Region 3 HUB Imaging Unit B37-1
 PO Box 6057
 Arlington, WA 98223-9957



Help with Medicare Costs and New Benefits- Continued

If your monthly income is at or below:	And your resources are at or below:	You may qualify for:
Individual \$1,362 Couple \$1,830	Individual \$12,640 Couple \$25,260 SS does not count the following resources: your home, your vehicles, personal possessions, financial help from family or friends to pay your utility/shelter/food bills, your life insurance policy, your burial plot, irrevocable burial contracts or back payments from Social Security or SSI.	Extra Help or Limited Income Subsidy This program pays for all or some of your Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage) premiums. You may not have to pay monthly premiums or deductibles, and you could pay as little as \$2.50 for generic drug co-payments and \$6.30 for your brand name drug co-payments.

Extra Help or Limited Income Subsidy applications can be completed on-line at www.ssa.gov or you can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or Senior I & A to receive an application in the mail.

Additional Medicare Services and New Benefits

Service	Eligible Beneficiaries	What You Pay
Yearly Wellness Exam	People with Original Medicare	0 - if doctor accepts Medicare assignment
Diabetes supplies such as monitors, lancets and test strips	People enrolled in Medicare Part B.	20% of the Medicare-approved amount *
Foot Exams and Treatment	Medicare enrollees who have diabetes-related nerve damage	20% of the Medicare-approved amount

*If your pharmacy will not bill Medicare for test strips, try a mail-order supplier.

Don't forget to visit www.medicare.gov for helpful tools such as:

- Medicare Health Plan Comparisons
- Medigap Comparisons
- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
- Dialysis Facility Comparisons
- Nursing home Comparisons
- Participating Physician Directory

If you have questions regarding these or other Medicare services, please contact Senior Information & Assistance in Whatcom: (360) 738-2500 or Skagit: (360) 428-1301; or call the State Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) at 1-800-562-6900.