

## Medicare Part D “Extra Help”

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There has been some controversy and confusion re: Medicare Part D (the portion of Medicare which provides coverage for prescription drugs). For many people it has been helpful, but there are still many people enrolled in Medicare Part D who are now having difficulty affording the deductibles, premiums, and co-pays for the program. For some of these people, a subsidy called "EXTRA HELP" is available to lower these payments.

### WHAT IS "EXTRA HELP"?

"Extra help" is a subsidy for people with limited income and resources. It helps to pay monthly premiums, deductibles, and prescription co-payments for the Medicare Part D program.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRA HELP

To qualify for extra help with Medicare Part D costs, your **annual income** must be limited to \$15,315 for an individual or \$20,535 for a married couple living together. Even if your annual income is higher you still may be able to get some help. Your **total resources** must be limited to \$11,710 for an individual and \$23,410 for a married couple living together. Resources which count toward the limit include bank accounts, stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, and IRAs, **but do not include your home or car.**

To determine if you are eligible, you must submit an application.

To learn more about this program and the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG), please contact them at (414) 817-0030 or fax to (414) 282-3213. Their internet address is [www.cwag.org](http://www.cwag.org), and their mailing address is:

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG)  
C/O Wilson Park Senior Center  
2601 W. Howard Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

The Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups can help you schedule a presentation about the "EXTRA HELP" program for your organization or church; they will assess if you are eligible for the program and help you fill out the application. In addition, they can help with guardianship issues, pension rights, and a membership to CWAG includes a subscription to a newsletter, invitations to local senior issue forums, discounts on AAA insurance, information on mail-order drugs, and funeral services.