

MEDICARE Resources

Free Medicare Counseling - SHINE

SHINE stands for Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone. SHINE provides FREE unbiased health insurance counseling information and assistance to Massachusetts residents with Medicare, their caregivers, and those approaching Medicare eligibility. Medicare is complicated and plans change every year. Take advantage of this free program. For more information about SHINE, go to: <https://shinema.org/>. SHINE counseling is available at the Council on Aging. Call 508-559-0060 for an appointment.

Medicare Savings Program Expanded in Massachusetts in 2020

The income and asset limits for the Medicare Savings Programs have increased. This is good news for thousands of Massachusetts adults who will no longer have to pay for Medicare Part B. Single adults qualify with gross monthly income of \$1,738 or less, and assets at or below \$15,720. Married couples qualify with monthly gross income of \$2,346 or less, and assets at or below \$23,600. People who qualify for one of these programs automatically qualify for the Part D Extra Help program that helps pay for prescription drug costs. To learn more, go to the mass.gov website:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/help-paying-medicare-costs#:~:text=MassHealth%20offers%20Medicare%20Savings%20Programs,of%20pocket%20costs%2C%20including%3A&text=In%20certain%20cases%2C%20your%20out,success%20as%20coinsurance%20and%20deductibles> (Medicare Savings Program)

Prescription Advantage

Prescription Advantage, a state-sponsored prescription drug program for seniors and people with disabilities. Prescription Advantage provides financial help to lower prescription drug costs. If you have Medicare or other prescription insurance, Prescription Advantage helps to fill gaps in coverage. For people not eligible for Medicare, Prescription Advantage provides primary prescription drug coverage. For more information go to the Mass.gov website:

[https://www.mass.gov/prescription-drug-assistance#:~:text=Prescription%20Advantage%20provides%20prescription%20drug,meeting%20income%20and%20employment%20guidelines.&text=You%20can%20reach%20Prescription%20Advantage,\(877\)%20610%20D0241](https://www.mass.gov/prescription-drug-assistance#:~:text=Prescription%20Advantage%20provides%20prescription%20drug,meeting%20income%20and%20employment%20guidelines.&text=You%20can%20reach%20Prescription%20Advantage,(877)%20610%20D0241). (Prescription Advantage)