



## State Resources for Seniors in Louisiana

Many seniors face high costs for their medical care and prescription drug coverage, and finding the funds to pay for these health care expenses can be stressful. We created this guide covering all of the available health insurance and prescription drug coverage programs in your state so you can take care of your health without worrying about the cost. Included in the guide are the benefits details, eligibility requirements, and application processes for available health insurance and prescription drug coverage programs for seniors in your state.

# Health Insurance & Prescription Drug Coverage for Seniors

Seniors living in Louisiana can access help paying for health care and prescription drug services from a number of state-run programs. In addition to Medicare and Medicaid, Louisiana residents may be eligible for financial assistance through the Long-Term Care Personal Care Services or the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.

## Medicaid

Louisiana Medicaid assists low-income seniors by helping to cover the costs of a variety of health and medical care, such as physical therapy, prescription drugs, dental care and non-emergency transportation services.

## How to Apply

Applicants can apply for Louisiana Medicaid online through the LA Medicaid Self-Service Portal or by downloading an application and mailing the completed form to the Medicaid Application office in Baton Rouge. For help with the application process or to apply in person, visit your local Medicaid office or call (888) 342-6207.

## Eligibility

- Applicants for Louisiana Medicaid must:
- Be a resident or citizen of the U.S. and live in Louisiana
- Hold assets of less than \$2,000 for a single applicant or \$3,000 for a married couple
- Be aged 65 or older, blind or disabled, or
- Be below 65 years and not exceed the following household income levels:

Family Size	Monthly Income Limits
1	\$1,563
2	\$2,106
3	\$2,649
4	\$3,192



5	\$3,735
6	\$4,277
7	\$4,820
8	\$5,363

\*These limits are current as of 2022, but often change yearly. Contact your local Medicaid office for the latest information.

## Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provides Louisiana seniors aged 55 and older with the health, primary, long-term and acute care they require to help them live healthily within the community. PACE covers all Medicaid and Medicare services, including nutritional counseling, prescription medication, adult day care, inpatient hospital care, essential medical supplies and restorative therapy.

### How to Apply

For more information, contact your local PACE center:

- Baton Rouge: (225) 490-0604
- Greater New Orleans: (504) 945-1531
- Lafayette: (337) 470-4500

### Eligibility

Applicants need to meet the following criteria:

- Aged 55 years or older
- Certified as requiring nursing home level of care
- Financially eligible for Medicaid Long-Term Care Services
- Live in one of the PACE provider service areas of Baton Rouge, Greater New Orleans or Lafayette

## Medicare

Original Medicare consists of Part A, which covers services provided on an inpatient basis, and Part B, which covers outpatient services. For example, Part A covers nursing care provided during a hospital stay, while Part B covers things like doctor visits and durable medical equipment.

## How to Apply

To apply for Medicare online, visit the Social Security Administration website and fill out the form. You can also apply by telephone or in person. Call (800) 772-1213 to speak with a representative or use the online locator to find a Social Security office near you.

## Eligibility

To receive Medicare benefits, you must be at least 65 years old or have a qualifying disability or end-stage renal disease. Everyone pays a premium for Part B, but you may qualify for premium-free Part A coverage if you or your spouse worked and paid Medicare taxes for at least 10 years.

## Medicare Advantage

Original Medicare is managed by the federal government, but Medicare Advantage Plans are sold by private insurance companies. Each plan must offer at least the same amount of coverage as Original Medicare, but many insurers offer extra benefits to make their plans more attractive to consumers.

## How to Apply

Use the Find a Medicare Plan tool on Medicare.gov to compare Medicare Advantage Plans in your state. When you're ready to enroll, call (800) 633-4227 or contact the plan provider directly.

## Eligibility

If you're eligible for Original Medicare, you are likely eligible for Medicare Advantage; however, confirm eligibility requirements with the plan provider.

## Medicare Part D

Original Medicare doesn't cover most prescription drugs, so you may want to enroll in Medicare Part D, a supplemental plan that pays for a wide range of medications. Each plan has a formulary that explains how much coverage is provided for each type of drug. Most Medicare Advantage Plans include prescription drug coverage, and you can't enroll in Medicare Part D if you have a Medicare Advantage Plan that pays for prescription medications.

## How to Apply

Use the Find a Medicare Plan tool on Medicare.gov to find a plan that meets your needs. When you're ready to enroll, contact the plan directly for instructions on applying for coverage.

## Eligibility

To qualify for Medicare Part D, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B (Original Medicare) or one of the few Medicare Advantage Plans that doesn't cover prescription drugs.

## Medicare Savings Programs

Seniors with limited income can apply for one of four Medicare Savings Programs to help them cover Medicare expenses, such as premiums, deductibles and coinsurance. There are four plans for which seniors may be eligible:

- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary:** This MSP helps pay for Medicare Part A/Part B premiums, Part A/Part B deductibles and Part A/Part B coinsurance.
- **Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary:** The SLMB program helps pay Medicare Part B premiums.
- **Qualified Individual:** The QI program also helps participants pay their Medicare Part B premiums, but it has higher income limits than the QMB and SLMB programs.
- **Qualified Disabled Working Individual:** This MSP pays Medicare Part A premiums for participants who lost their Medicare and Social Security disability benefits because they returned to work and earned more than the allowable limit.

## How to Apply

Applications can be made online at the Medicaid Self-Service Portal, by calling Medicaid Customer Service at (888) 342-6207 or by printing an application and faxing it to (877) 523-2987. Visit your local Medicaid office to apply in person. For more information on the Medicare Savings Programs, visit [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

## Eligibility

To qualify for any of the Medicare Savings Programs you must be eligible or already receiving Medicare Hospital Insurance (Part A). In addition, seniors must meet certain financial criteria which are different for each program as detailed in the table below.

Program	Single Income Limits	Married Income Limits
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary	\$1,133	\$1,526
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary	\$1,359	\$1,831
Qualified Individual	\$1,529	\$2,060
Qualified Disabled Working Individual	\$2,265	\$3,052

\*These limits are current as of 2022, but often change yearly. Contact your local Medicaid office for the latest information.