

Are you having trouble paying for prescription medications?

If your doctor has prescribed a medicine and you cannot afford to pay for it, you may be able to get the medicine for free or for a reduced cost. There are several assistance programs that may be able to help.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE

If you have health insurance, your plan may or may not pay for prescription medicine. It depends on what kind of insurance you have. For example, if you have private health insurance through your employer, some or all of the cost of your medicine may be covered. If you have the traditional Medicare plan (sometimes called fee-for-service), you'll need Medicare Part D to make sure your medicine is covered. If you have Medicaid, most of the costs of prescription medications will be covered.

PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Patient assistance programs (also called PAPs) are sponsored by companies that make prescription medicine. Each company has its own rules about who qualifies for its PAP. In many cases, you will need to show that you don't qualify for private or public health insurance (such as Medicare or Medicaid). You may also need to prove that your income is below a certain level.
- The Together Rx Access Program helps individuals who have no prescription drug coverage and are not eligible for Medicare to save on prescription products. Most cardholders save 25 percent to 40 percent on brand-name prescription drugs and products. Savings on generic medicines are also available. The card can be used at most pharmacies. For more information, visit [TogetherRxAccess.com](https://www.togetherRxAccess.com).
- The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) is a free, confidential service that helps uninsured and underinsured patients find programs that provide prescription medications for free or nearly free. For more information, call 888-4PPA-NOW (888-477-2669) or visit pparx.org.
- The Needy Meds website gives information about PAPs. The site also lists drugs that are available through PAPs and gives contact information for the companies that make them. In many cases, you can download a copy of a drug company's PAP application. Needy Meds also offers free drug discount cards. Just download and print the card, then bring it to your pharmacy. If your pharmacy accepts the discount card, you may receive up to 80 percent off the price of your prescription medicine. The Needy Meds site also links to state Medicaid websites. For more information, visit [needymeds.com](https://www.needymeds.com).
- [GoodRx.com](https://www.goodrx.com) is a website that allows you to compare cash prices at different pharmacies, print coupons and check if Medicare Part D covers your medication.

VETERANS

Veterans may receive prescription drugs from a Veterans Administration (VA) facility at a reduced rate or, in some cases, free of charge. Veterans should inquire with their local VA office or contact the VA at 800-827-1000.

STATE RESOURCES

Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) is a free insurance counseling service for people on Medicare and their caregivers. SHIP is sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging. For more information, call 800-252-8966 and select option 2.

MEDICARE “EXTRA HELP” PROGRAM (LOW-INCOME SUBSIDY)

Extra Help is available to low-income Medicare beneficiaries to help pay insurance premiums and/or some of the costs of prescriptions. Individuals on Medicare should call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 to determine eligibility or to have an Extra Help application mailed to them. Most local senior centers can assist with applications to this program.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) provides assistance to Illinois residents who have HIV or AIDS. Contact IDPH at 217-782-4977 or visit idph.state.il.us/health/aids/adap.html.

SPRINGFIELD-AREA RESOURCES

(assistance dependent on current funding status)

Catholic Charities

120 S. 11th St. | Springfield, IL

Phone: 217-523-4551

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday: 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Take your photo ID and prescription with you or have your prescription already at CompleteCare Pharmacy. They will not assist with the cost of pain medications. You can be insured or uninsured. You will fill out some paperwork. They determine the amount of assistance on a case-by-case basis.

Clearlake Township

No longer provides prescription assistance.

Contact Ministries

1100 E. Adams St. | Springfield, IL

Phone: 217-753-3939 | Fax: 217-753-8643

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Take your photo ID and prescription. You will fill out some paperwork and be interviewed by a caseworker to determine eligibility. You can be insured or uninsured. They will use CompleteCare Pharmacy to fill your prescription. Amount of assistance will be determined by the caseworker.

Kumler Outreach Ministries

303 N. Grand Ave. East | Springfield, IL

Phone: 217-523-2269

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.–noon | 1–3 p.m.

Take your photo ID, medication list and prescriptions with you. They can assist with \$100 every six months and will use CompleteCare Pharmacy to fill the prescriptions. You can be insured or uninsured.

Salvation Army

1600 E. Clearlake Ave. | Springfield, IL

Phone: 217-525-2196

Provides assistance on a case-by-case basis. Funds primarily reserved for homeless individuals.

Springfield Township

3298 Terminal Ave. | Springfield, IL

Phone: 217-525-1464

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

(Must call for an appointment.)

Take photo ID, social security card, proof of address (Springfield Township), proof of last 30 days' income, six months of rent receipts and prescriptions. Maximum assistance of \$200 per year.

Sources: Medicare.gov, FamilyDoctor.org, Illinois.gov