



- [HOME](#)
- [PRINT APPLICATION](#)
- [REQUEST APPLICATION](#)
- [LINKS](#)

What is NCRx?



NCRx is Governor Easley's new prescription drug assistance plan to help low-income seniors participate in the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug program. NCRx will be available to low-income seniors who meet the eligibility requirements. NCRx will pay up to \$18 toward monthly premiums for Medicare Prescription Drug Plans that work with NCRx.

Who is eligible for NCRx?

You are eligible for NCRx if you meet all of the following criteria:

- North Carolina Resident
- Medicare Beneficiary
- Age 65 or older
- Income at or below \$17,150 for individuals and \$23,100 for married couples
- Combined savings, investments and real estate (other than your home, car, and \$1500 per person to cover burial expenses) of \$20,000 or less for individuals and \$30,000 less for married couples
- Enrolled or will enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan that participates with NCRx
- No other form of drug coverage that is as good or better than Medicare Part D
- Not eligible for the full federal "Extra Help" subsidy for Medicare Part D

How do I apply for NCRx?

You can print out an [NCRx enrollment application](#) from this website. Once you have printed it out, complete it and send it to NCRx, P.O. 10068, Raleigh, NC 27690-2724.

You may call to request an application 1-888-488-NCRX (6279). You may also request that an application be mailed to you by clicking on www.ncrx.gov/enrollForm.asp and entering your name and mailing address.

Can I enroll at anytime?

You must apply before December 31, 2006 to be eligible for NCRx benefits for 2007.

How does NCRx work?

Once your application to NCRx has been approved and you are enrolled in a participating Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, NCRx will pay up to \$18 of your monthly premium.

For example, if the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan you choose costs \$30 per month, NCRx will pay \$18 per month. You will pay the remaining \$12 per month. If the plan you choose costs less than \$18, NCRx will pay the full monthly premium.

Which Medicare prescription drug plans participate with NCRx?

Any Medicare Prescription Drug Plan that will accept payment from NCRx can participate. The names of participating plans will soon be available at this website or by calling NCRx at 1-888-488-NCRX (6279).

What if I am already enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan?

If you are already enrolled in Medicare Part D, and you meet the NCRx eligibility requirements, you can still apply for NCRx. If your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan participates in NCRx, then NCRx will subsidize up to \$18 of your premium. The names of participating plans will soon be available at this website or by calling NCRx at 1-888-488-NCRX (6279).

What if I am not enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan?

If you are not enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan, and you meet the NCRx eligibility requirements, you should apply for NCRx. If your application is approved, you must then enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan prior to December 31, 2006. For assistance in choosing a plan that meets your needs you can call NCRx at 1-888-488-NCRX (6279).

Can I qualify for even more help?

If your income is less than \$14,700 for an individual or \$19,800 for married couples, and your combined savings, investments and real estate (not including your home, car, or a \$1500 burial allowance) are less than \$10,000 for an individual and \$20,000 for a married couple, you may be eligible for greater federal assistance – enough to cover all of your drug costs except for small co-payments.

To apply for this federal benefit, you must complete and submit an "Extra Help" application, available at www.medicare.gov, your local senior service center or any Social Security office. You may also get a federal Extra Help application from NCRx by calling 1-888-488-NCRX (6279). If your income and resources meet the Extra Help guidelines, you should apply for Extra Help right away. If you are eligible for federal Extra Help, in most cases you cannot also receive premium assistance from NCRx.

What if I have additional questions about NCRx, Medicare Prescription Drug Plan coverage or federal Extra Help?

If you have additional questions about NCRx, Medicare Prescription Drug Plan coverage or federal Extra Help, call NCRx at 1-

888-488-NCRX (6279) or check the following resources:

- North Carolina Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)
1-800-443-9354 www.ncshiip.com
- Medicare 1-800-633-4227 www.medicare.gov

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