



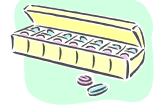
# APPLY FOR THE MEDICARE PART D LOW-INCOME SUBSIDY TODAY!



**If you are on Medicare Part D, you might be eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy that provides financial assistance to help you afford your medications!**

*Those eligible for the low-income subsidy often pay no Part D plan premiums or deductibles, but pay \$1.10 or \$2.40 (generic drugs) & \$3.20 or \$6.00 (brand-name drugs), depending on their income!*

## What is the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS)?



- The Low-Income Subsidy, also known as “Extra Help,” provides financial assistance for some Medicare Part D beneficiaries who have limited income and resources.
- Those who are eligible for this low-income subsidy will get help paying for 75% or more of their monthly premium, yearly deductible, prescription coinsurance and copayments and no gap in coverage.
- In 2009 the LIS is estimated to be worth \$3,923 at the pharmacy and as much as \$298 in annual premiums!

## Who Is Eligible?

- Full benefit dual eligibles (on Medicare and Medicaid); Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients with Medicare; and Medicare Savings Programs participants are automatically eligible.
- Individuals with income under \$15,600 or for married couples, under than \$21,000 (if you support other family members this income limit may be higher)
- Individuals with resources (bank accounts, stocks and bonds—NOT house or car) less than \$11,990 or married couples with resources less than \$23,970



## **How can I apply for the Low-Income Subsidy?**

**People who are not automatically eligible have to fill out an application and send it to SSA or apply on-line at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).**

**You can obtain applications from SSA by:**

- Calling (800) 772.1213 or (TTY) (800) 325.0778
- Going to your nearest Social Security Office

**You can also get an application and more information from Amy O'Connor at [policyassistant@namict.org](mailto:policyassistant@namict.org) or at (800) 215.3021.**

## **Why is the LIS important for people with mental illnesses?**

Best treatment guidelines for mental health conditions require that patients have access to a wide array of available medications. Significant scientific and clinical evidence demonstrates that mental health medications are not generally interchangeable.

Because psychiatric drugs have unique and individualized effects on a person's health, the Low-Income Subsidy can be critical for those who are struggling to pay for their prescriptions, and can provide significant help in assuring that individuals have access to the specific medications recommended by their physicians. It is dangerous to the patient's health when psychiatric drugs are disrupted or discontinued, and is also costly to public health systems.