

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM – ALASKA 2006
(aka MEDICARE BUY-IN PROGRAM)
Is it Hard for You to Pay for Medicare?

The Medicare buy-in program can save you \$1,122.00 or more per year
Note: The \$1,122.00 is calculated from - 12 x \$93.50, [2007 Part B premium]

What is the Medicare Saving (Buy-in) Program?

The Medicare Buy-in Programs help people with low-incomes and resources pay their Medicare costs. There are three programs—the **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)** program, the **Specified Low-income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)** programs, and the **Qualifying Individual – I (QI-1)** program.

What is QMB?

QMB can pay for:

- Monthly Medicare Part B (medical insurance) premium of **\$93.50**, the annual **\$131.00** deductible.
- Hospital deductible of **\$992.00**
- Monthly Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) premium if you do not receive Part A free of charge. The premium for most people is **\$410.00** for less than 30 quarters.
- Coinsurance costs – the 20% of approved charges for doctor’s services that Medicare does not pay.

What is SLMB?

If your income is too high to qualify for QMB, SLMB can pay your monthly Medicare Part B premiums of **\$93.50**

What is QI-1?

If your income is too high for SLMB, QI-1 can pay your monthly Medicare Part B premium of **\$93.50**. There are

limited funds for this program. Applications are approved on a first-come, first served basis.

Who is eligible for the Medicare Savings Programs?

Those who receive Medicare Part A and have limited income and resources.

Medicare Part A

You must be enrolled in or eligible for Medicare Part A. In Alaska, you can sign up for Part A during the month of your 65th birthday, the three months before or after that month, or during the “general enrollment” period from January 1 to March 31 each year. You can do this at your local Social Security Administration Office. Generally, you must be a U.S. citizen to enroll in Medicare, but there are some exceptions for certain non-citizens.

Income Limits

The money you receive monthly from Social Security, wages, pensions, veteran’s benefits, or other sources must be less than:

(As of 04/2006)	QMB	SLMB	QI-1
Individual:	\$1021	\$1225	\$1379
Married:	\$1375	\$1650	\$1857

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Resource Limits

For all of these programs, the value of your savings and the things you own must be limited (your home, one care, and some other items are not counted). Your resources must be worth less than:

- **\$4,000** for an individual
- **\$6,000** for a married couple

Where do I apply for the Medicare Savings Programs?

You can apply for these programs at your local Division of Public Assistance (DPA). The number is in the blue, government section of your phone directory. For more information, you can also call the Medicare, Senior Information Office, toll-free at 1-800-474-6065.

Documents Needed for Application

Applicants need to document the information on their applications.

The applicants need the following documents:

- Medicare card
- Identification document such as a driver's license
- Proof of non-work income
- Recent bank statements
- Records related to stock/bond statements
- Property deed or records showing property's value
- Life insurance policies
- Funeral/burial policies

Ask the applicant if he or she has the documents on him or her. If yes, please make copies of the documents and put them in the manila folder.

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Can you qualify for these programs?

Follow the steps below to find out. This worksheet will tell you if you should apply. It is not an application.

STEP 1: BASIC RULES

Do you have or are eligible for Medicare Part A (hospital insurance)?

YES (Go to Step 2)

NO (If you do not have or are not eligible for Medicare Part A, you do not qualify at this time.) If you are not sure about your Medicare Part A, continue.

STEP 2: RESOURCES AND ASSETS

Add the value of the items you have below. *Do not count money saved for burial (up to \$1,500), your home or one car:*

Bank Accounts _____ \$ _____

Savings Accounts _____ \$ _____

Credit Union _____ \$ _____

Certificates of Deposit _____ \$ _____

Stocks or Bonds, etc. _____ \$ _____

Individual Retirement Plans \$ _____

Property (not your home) \$ _____

Total _____ \$ _____

Is your total *less than* \$4,000 for one person or \$6,000 for a married couple?

YES (Go to Step 3)

No (You may have too many resources to qualify at this time.)

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STEP 3: INCOME FOR YOU (AND YOUR SPOUSE)

Add all monthly income indicated below:

Social Security Check(s) \$ _____

Veteran's Benefits \$ _____

Retirement Benefits \$ _____

Interest Income \$ _____

Wages \$ _____

Others \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Is your total from Step 3 *less than...*

(As of 04/2006)	QMB	SLMB	QI-1
Individual:	\$1021	\$1225	\$1379
Married:	\$1375	\$1650	\$1857

() YES (Go to Step 4)

() No (You may not qualify at this time.)

Note: If you currently work and your total is higher, you may still qualify. Be sure to check!

STEP 4: TO APPLY

For More Information:

1. Call Medicare, Senior Information Office at 269-3680 in Anchorage or statewide at 1-800-478-6065 to learn how to apply for the Medicare Savings (Buy-in) Programs

2. See this link at the State of Alaska Health Care Services Web site:

[Eligibility Requirements: 2007 Medical Assistance Income Standards](#)