

Facts about Applying for Alabama Medicaid's Qualifying Individual-1 (QI-1) Program

Is Alabama Medicaid accepting new QI-1 applications?

Yes. Alabama is now accepting new QI-1 applications.

Is there a deadline to apply?

There is no deadline. However, federal law requires that states process QI-1 applications on a first come, first serve basis. If you want to apply for this benefit, it is important that you do so right away. Once the money given to the state is used up, no more people will be added.

What does QI-1 pay for?

QI-1 pays for the Medicare Part B premium of \$104.90 per month.

Will this affect my Medicare Part D?

If you are awarded QI-1, you automatically qualify for extra help in paying your Medicare Part D (drug) premiums and deductibles. If you need help in choosing a drug plan, call 1-800-633-4227 for help.

How will Alabama Medicaid decide who will be on this program?

In order to qualify for the QI-1 program, you must turn in an application. On this application you will report your income and other information. To qualify, you must have Medicare Part A, have income of at least 120% FPL, but less than 135% FPL (Income cannot exceed **\$1,313** per month for an individual or **\$1,765** per month for a couple), and not be otherwise eligible for another Medicaid program.

I applied for QI-1 last year and was turned down because there were no slots available. Do I have to reapply?

Yes. If you are not on the QI-1 program now, you must turn in a new application.

How do I apply for the QI-1 program?

Since no interview is required, you do not need to come in person to apply for the QI-1 program. Instead, you can fill out and mail in a paper form to Medicaid. The paper form can be found at www.medicaid.alabama.gov. Select Apply for Medicaid, Select Applications and Forms, Select Medicare Savings Program – Form for help paying Medicare premiums –Form 211

If I mail in my application, where do I send it?

To the district office serving your county (List is on last page of the Medicare Savings Program application).

How do I get a paper application form?

If you need a paper form, you can print one from the Agency's website (*under Apply for Medicaid/Application and Forms/Medicare Savings Program – Form for help paying Medicare premiums –Form 211*).

The website URL is:

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/5.0_Resources/5.4_Forms_Library/5.4.2_Eligibility/5.4.2_Form_211_QMB_App_3-12.pdf.

You also may call toll-free 1-800-362-1504 or any of the district offices and ask that an application be mailed. If you call the toll-free number, you will need to choose the option to have an application mailed to you. You will be asked to leave your name and address of where the application is to be mailed.)

How long does it take to process my application?

It usually takes about 45 days to process an application once all information is received by the Medicaid worker (when the application is complete).

If I qualify, how will that work?

If you qualify for the QI-1 program, Medicaid will tell Social Security to stop deducting this money from your Social Security check. This will take three to four months to happen. Once they stop taking the money out, the Social Security Administration will mail you a refund check for the amount of the premium that has been withheld from your checks. If you use direct deposit for your regular check, then your check will be direct deposited into your account.

How soon can I expect my refund check?

In about three to four months.

I got a letter from Medicaid saying that I have qualified for QI-1. However, Social Security is still deducting one or more premiums from my check.

It takes about three to four months for Medicare to stop taking the premium out of your check. If Social Security is still taking out your premium four months after you were approved for QI-1, please call the Medicaid Agency's Medicare Buy-In Unit (Third Party Division) at (334) 353-5773.

Will I get a Medicaid card?

No. QI-1 recipients do not get a card since the only benefit is payment of the Medicare Part B premium. You should keep the letter showing that you qualify for QI-1 for your record.