

# **BIG SKY Rx**

## **WHAT IS BIG SKY Rx?**

This State of Montana program pays all, or part, of Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) premiums for eligible Montanans. The program is administered by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Created by the 2005 Legislature (SB324) to help Montanans pay their Medicare Part D premiums.

## **HOW IS BIG SKY Rx FUNDED?**

The tax on tobacco products is earmarked for this.

## **HOW DOES BIG SKY Rx WORK?**

Any Montana Medicare recipient can fill out an application to see if they qualify. If they do, we start paying all, or a portion of, their monthly Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) premium up to \$36.02.

## **WHO QUALIFIES FOR BIG SKY Rx?**

- Be a Montana resident,
- Be on Medicare, and have not received Medicaid in the last 12 months.
- Have an annual family income less than about \$21,780 if single or about \$29,420 if married and living together (this income changes with the household size and changes annually).

**Some income is not counted in determining eligibility for Big Sky Rx.**

## **WHAT ABOUT ASSETS? ARE THEY CONSIDERED INCOME?**

No, assets do not count as income. A person's "nest egg" (IRAs, Stocks, Bonds, Savings Accounts) do not count, but the interest or dividends they pull from them to live on is considered income.

We ask about assets to determine if a person needs to fill out an application for Social Security Extra Help (SSEH) – a federal program that can help with Medicare Part D co-pays, deductibles, and premiums. **2012 SSEH \*asset limits:** Single \$12,640 and Couple \$25,260.

\*Does not include burial exclusion of Single \$1,500 and Couple \$3,000, life insurance, or in-kind.

BSRx Helena area 444-1233

BSRx In-State 1-866-369-1233

BSRx Out-of-State 1-406-444-1233

Area Agencies on Aging/SHIP Counselors 1-800-551-3191

Medicare 1-800-633-4227

Social Security Extra Help 1-800-772-1213