



Intake for CT's QI/ALMB Program Closed

Effective July 5, 2005, applications will no longer be taken for Connecticut's Qualified Individual (QI)/Additional Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (ALMB) Program. QI/ALMB is a limited federal block grant-funded expansion of the Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary Program (SLMB), which pays the Medicare Part B premium for beneficiaries with incomes at or below 135% of the federal poverty level. There is no asset test for the program in Connecticut. Connecticut's Department of Social Services (DSS) announced the closing of intake for the program because all of the limited federal funding for it has been allocated to current enrollees.

The closure of intake for QI/ALMB will have an adverse impact on how many of Connecticut's Medicare beneficiaries qualify for extra help under Medicare's Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D), due to begin on January 1, 2006. People eligible for any of the Medicare Savings Programs, including QI/ALMB, are automatically entitled to and enrolled in the full subsidy for Part D. Because the income and asset requirements for CT's QI/ALMB program are substantially more generous than the other ways of qualifying for a subsidy under Part D, some Connecticut beneficiaries who would be eligible for the full subsidy if they were allowed to enroll in QI/ALMB will find that they are not eligible for any kind of subsidy under Part D.