

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICINE

If you can't afford the prescription drugs you need, you may be eligible for assistance programs offered by pharmaceutical companies, nonprofit groups, or state governments. Manufacturers such as Merck, Pfizer, and Lilly offer assistance programs for those in need. The groups listed below are a good starting point for researching whether assistance is available for the medicine you need.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance: A program sponsored by drug companies, doctors, patient advocacy organizations, and civic groups. It helps low-income, uninsured patients get free or low-cost, brand-name medications.

Together Rx Access: With Together Rx Access®, individuals and families without prescription drug coverage can gain access to immediate savings on hundreds of brand-name and generic prescription products at their neighborhood pharmacies.

NeedyMeds: A non-profit organization that maintains an extensive database of information about patient assistance programs, state assistance, drug discount programs, and free or low-cost medical care. You can search their database for free on their web site. The site also has information on thousands of programs to help consumers through the application process.

RxAssist: An online database of drug company programs that provide free or affordable drugs and co-pay assistance.

Center for Benefits: Provided by the National Council on Aging, this shares information about assistance programs for low-income seniors and young people with disabilities.

RxHope: A web-based resource where you can search by medication to locate assistance programs. They also offer help with the application process.

RxOutreach: A mail-order pharmacy for people with little to no health insurance coverage.

Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation: This is a national 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to helping federally and commercially insured people living with life-threatening, chronic and rare diseases with the out-of-pocket costs for their prescribed medications.