




<b>Aging Links</b>
HOME
About Us
Assistance in Your Home & Community
Illinois Family Caregiver Support
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Legal Assistance Elder Abuse & Prevention
Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Long-Term Care Council
Intergenerational & Volunteer Programs
Directory of Agencies Serving Seniors
Illinois Area Agencies on Aging
 Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)
Building Public Awareness
News & Publications Calendar
Legislative Updates Statutes & Rules
Related Web Sites
<b>State Links</b>
Search Illinois
<input type="text"/>
Go
[Search Tips]

## Circuit Breaker and Illinois Cares Rx

The Illinois Department on Aging's Circuit Breaker program provides grants to senior citizens and persons with disabilities to help them reduce the impact of taxes and prescription medications on their lives. When the costs of property taxes and prescription medicines begin to "overload" our seniors and persons with disabilities, this program steps in to help, just as a circuit breaker prevents overloads in an electrical system.

**NOTICE: In past years, the Department on Aging has been able to issue Circuit Breaker grants at the maximum allowable amounts. However, the state budget for fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012) did not fund the Circuit Breaker program at those levels. In order to continue to provide the Circuit Breaker grant benefit to older adults and persons with disabilities on and after July 1, the Department made the difficult decision to cut each grant awarded in half. This decision based on budgetary cutbacks cannot be appealed.**

**Thank you for your understanding.**

### There are important changes to Illinois Cares Rx beginning September 1, 2011.

Due to Illinois state budget restrictions, funding for the Illinois Cares Rx program has been reduced. In order to continue to offer this program to Illinois residents in need, income levels to qualify for the program have been changed. On September 1, 2011, if your income level is **below** \$21,780 (household size 1), \$29,420 (household size 2) or \$37,060 (household size 3) you will continue to qualify for Illinois Cares Rx.

Please view the [Eligibility Requirements](#) and [Copayments and Cost-Sharing](#) Web pages for details.

### How does it work?

For those who qualify, Circuit Breaker provides:

- **Tax Grants** – If you pay property taxes or mobile home taxes on your home, or if you rent or live in a nursing, retirement, or shelter care home that was subject to property taxes, you may be able to receive a grant.

- **License Plate Discount** – A \$75 discount on your license plate fee.

- **Ride Free Transit Card** – If you have a qualifying disability or are 65 years of age or older and meet the income eligibility requirements of the Circuit Breaker program, you may be eligible for free rides on all fixed-route regularly scheduled buses, trains and public transit systems.

- **Prescription Drug Assistance** –

If you qualify for Illinois Cares Rx with the new income levels, beginning September 1, 2011, the amount you pay for each prescription you fill will change. For each 30-day supply you will pay \$5 for generic drugs, \$15 for preferred brand name drugs, \$15 for specialty drugs, and \$20 for non-preferred brand name drugs. **If you have Medicare**, after the total cost of your drugs (the amount you and the plan pay together) reaches \$2,840, you will pay 25% of the cost of each prescription, plus the appropriate co-payments (\$5, \$15, or \$20).

**If you do NOT have Medicare**, after the total cost of your drugs reaches \$1,750 you will pay 25% of the cost of each prescription plus the applicable co-payment. If you have Medicaid or the full

### Income Limits

**For Circuit Breaker property tax grant/ license plate discount and Ride Free Transit card, your total income in 2011 must be less than:**

- \$27,610 for a household of one;
- \$36,635 for a household of two; or
- \$45,657 for a household of three.

### Income Limits and Requirements for Illinois Cares Rx:

You would qualify for Illinois Cares Rx if:

- You are filing an application for yourself only and your total income is less than **\$21,780**; or
- You are filing an application for yourself and your spouse\*, or yourself and one Qualified Additional Resident and your total income is less than **\$29,420**; or
- You are filing an application for yourself and your spouse and a Qualified Additional Resident(s) and your total income is less than **\$37,060**.

You would qualify for Illinois Cares Rx **Plus** if:

- You meet the income qualifications stated above; and
- You have Medicare; or
- You are 65 years of age or older without Medicare; and
- You are a U.S. citizen or qualified noncitizen.

You would qualify for Illinois Cares Rx **Basic** if:

- You meet the income qualifications stated above; and
- You do not have Medicare; and
- You are 16 years of age or older but under age 65 and totally disabled, or

## Circuit Breaker Links

Home
<b>FORM IL-1363</b>
Apply Online
Check Your Application Status
Circuit Breaker Tax Grant
License Plate Discount
Ride Free Transit Card
Prescription Drug Assistance
What Drugs are Covered?
Illinois Cares Rx
Illinois Rx Buying Club
About Form IL-1363
Who Should Apply?
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
Contact Information

Some files on this site are in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. You may download a FREE copy of Adobe Acrobat by clicking the logo below.



Access Adobe's [PDF Accessibility Tools](#)

The above links for Adobe Acrobat will open a new browser window.

Income Subsidy (also known as Extra Help) your co-payments will remain the same. If you are in a coordinating Medicare Part D plan, with or without a deductible, Illinois Cares Rx will continue to pay the premium and the deductible if there is one.

If you currently receive the \$25 rebate check instead of help paying for your prescription drugs, **the \$25 rebate check will be discontinued as of 9/01/11**. Your August check, which will be sent in September, will be your last rebate check.

65 years of age or older and you do not meet the requirements for Illinois Cares Rx Plus.

\* You must include your spouse's income if married and living together on December 31, 2011. If your spouse died during 2011, you would file as single and claim only your income. Do not include the income of a Qualified Additional Resident.

#### **Illinois Cares Rx AIDS Drug Assistance**

Illinois Cares Rx provides an additional coordinating benefit for individuals who have Medicare and a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS.\* For more information, see [What Drugs Are Covered: HIV/AIDS](#).

The formulary is determined by [Illinois AIDS Drug Assistance Program](#), which is operated by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

### **How do I enroll?**

#### **Follow these steps to enroll in Circuit Breaker and start receiving your benefits:**

- **[Am I eligible for Circuit Breaker?](#)** – Review the eligibility requirements to see if you are able to enroll. Briefly, Circuit Breaker is for Illinois Residents, age 65 or older or with a disability, and who meet certain income requirements.
  
- **Apply today!** – Mail your application or file it on the Internet.
  - [How and when do I apply?](#)
  - [Application Form IL-1363](#)