

How to Apply for Medicare

You can sign up for Medicare by phone, online or in-person at your local Social Security Administration office.



Call

800-772-1213
(TTY) 1-800-325-0778



Online

socialsecurity.gov



In-person

Visit your local
Social Security office.

If you're planning to enroll in person, making an appointment is recommended.*

Here's what you should have with you when you apply:

- An original certified copy of your birth certificate or other proof of birth
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency, if not born in the U.S.
- Your social security card if you're already receiving benefits
- Copy of your W-2 form(s) and/or self-employment tax return for the last year
- U.S. military discharge papers if you served before 1968
- Health insurance information—type of coverage and start date/end date for your group or individual coverage
- Date and place of birth, if born outside of the U.S., you will need your birth country and Permanent Resident card number

*In-person appointment availability may be impacted by Covid-19. Please call your local Social Security office to confirm.

Set yourself up for success before you enroll



Learn

Starting on your 64th birthday, you should get to know:

- The parts of Medicare
- What Original Medicare is and what it covers
- What are Medicare Supplement plans and Medicare Advantage plans



Shop

Starting when you are 64½, you should:

- Start shopping for a Medicare plan
- Compare Medicare Advantage plans with Medicare Supplement plans



Enroll

Your initial election period lasts for seven months:

- Begins 3 months before your 65th birthday
- Continues through your birthday month
- Ends 3 months after your 65th birthday

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