

## Can a family member's medical bills be used to help meet a Spenddown?

Depending upon a consumer's situation, medical bills of certain family members may be used to help meet a Spenddown. Consumers can contact their local CDJFS for information specific to their situation.

## Can Medicare costs paid through the Medicare Premium Assistance Program be applied toward Spenddown?

No. The Medicare Premium Assistance Program is for certain people eligible for Medicare. This program helps people with limited income and assets get help in paying one or more of the following: **Medicare premium(s), Medicare deductibles, Medicare coinsurance.** For more information and answers to your questions, please call:

**Medicaid Consumer Hotline:**1-800-324-8680

**TTY for hearing impaired:**1-800-292-3572

**Or visit:**[www.jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/consumers](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/consumers)

**This program has three categories:**

- 1. Qualified Individual-1 (QI-1):** Medicaid pays the monthly Medicare Part B premium. Consumers can only use coinsurance and deductibles toward their Spenddown.
- 2. Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB):** These individuals have less income than the QI-1s. Medicaid pays the monthly Medicare Part B premium. Consumers can only use coinsurance and deductibles toward their Spenddown.
- 3. Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB):** Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A and B premiums, coinsurance and deductibles. Consumers cannot use any of these toward their Spenddown.

**John R. Kasich**, Governor

**Michael B. Colbert**, Director  
[jfs.ohio.gov/ohp](http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp)

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**Ohio**

Department of  
Job and Family Services

# Medicaid Spenddown

Over income for Medicaid? Here's another option.



## What is Medicaid Spenddown?

Ohio Medicaid's Spenddown program offers certain Ohioans a chance to still qualify for Medicaid - even if their **income is too high**. This program is for Ohioans who are aged, blind or have a disability. It allows them to deduct medical expenses from their income, so their income may fall within Medicaid guidelines. Spenddown eligibility is a **monthly** process.

The Medicaid Spenddown Program requires consumers to submit proof of medical expenses that meet the Spenddown amount. Once the Spenddown has been reached, the consumer is then eligible for Medicaid for the remainder of the month. Expenses covered by other insurance are not eligible to be used toward the Spenddown.

## How is Medicaid Spenddown met?

**Consumers can meet their Medicaid Spenddown three ways:**

- 1. Ongoing** - Consumers can provide proof of monthly medical expenses (e.g., medical premiums or unpaid past medical bills) that consistently meet or exceed the monthly Spenddown amount.
- 2. Delayed** - This method allows consumers that do not have monthly medical expenses to submit other medical expenses that meet or exceed their Spenddown amount each month. Consumers must submit proof of medical expenses to their caseworker. Medicaid eligibility begins on the day the Spenddown amount is met, and ends the last day of that month.
- 3. Pay-in** - Consumers can also pay the Spenddown amount directly to their county department of job and family services (CDJFS) each month. The Medicaid card will cover the entire month and should be dated from the first day to the last day of the month.

## How is Medicaid Spenddown determined?

The CDJFS caseworker will determine the Spenddown amount. The monthly income that is above the Medicaid limit is the monthly Spenddown.

## Medicaid Spenddown Example

Monthly Income for Individual	\$ 800.00
Subtract \$20 (Income Disregard)*	-20.00
Subtract Medicaid limit	-556.00
Monthly Spenddown	\$ 224.00

\*\$20 of income is automatically disregarded for every ABD Medicaid applicant.

In this example, the Spenddown amount is \$224. Therefore, \$224 in medical expenses would need to be paid or incurred by the consumer in order to be eligible for Medicaid.

The consumer is responsible for paying any bill that is used to meet their Spenddown. Medicaid will pay for services that are needed for the remainder of the month after the Spenddown is met.

## What type of expenses can be applied toward Spenddown?

Medical expenses and bills can be submitted to the CDJFS to apply toward a consumer's Spenddown. The CDJFS will determine if the expenses can be applied to the Spenddown.

**Examples include:**

- Medical bills (such as doctor and dentist visits, eye exams, prescriptions, physical therapy, medical equipment, lab work)
- Medical insurance premiums (such as health, vision, dental, long-term care)
- Medical insurance co-pays and deductibles
- Medicare premiums
- Transportation costs to get to medical appointments (such as miles traveled by car and bus or taxi fares)
- Disposable medical supplies that are prescribed and medically necessary, such as adult disposable diapers, gauze and sterile water.

## How are unpaid past medical bills used to meet Spenddown?

Unpaid past medical bills may be used to meet Spenddown. For example, if a monthly Spenddown is \$100 and there is an unpaid past medical bill of \$800, that medical bill can be used to meet the Spenddown for 8 months. (\$800 bill/\$100 monthly Spenddown = 8 months that the Spenddown is met.)

These unpaid past medical bills must be given to the caseworker for documentation.

**Please note: Consumers are still responsible for payment of the bills.**