

Applying for Medicare Prior to Retirement

Age 65 and Over or Eligible for Medicare:

An employee 65 or over enrolling in County Retiree health benefits upon retirement will need to have or obtain Medicare Part A and Part B. Medicare may require an Employment Verification Form (CMS-L564) to be completed by your employer when applying for Medicare. Please bring this form to the Kern County Health & Wellness for completion. This applies to the retiree and any dependent being enrolled in the County retiree medical coverage and is eligible for Medicare.

If you are Medicare eligible due to a disability and under age 65, you are eligible to enroll in the County self-insured Under 65 retiree plans. Please note that Medicare is primary (must be billed first) to the County self-insured plans.

Get your Medicare card:

You'll need to confirm your eligibility, apply for Medicare and request your Medicare card, if you haven't already done so. This step is important because you'll need to provide the Medicare information from your Medicare card to enroll in a County of Kern Medicare health plan. Getting your Medicare card form can take up to 2 months, so don't delay.

Important: If you do not have your Medicare card when applying for County retiree medical coverage, please obtain an Award Letter from your Social Security Administration office to submit with the enrollment form.

Applying for Medicare:

- Apply online at www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up
- Contact Social Security at 1-800-72-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778)
- Visit your local Social Security Administration office

If you or a dependent is eligible for Medicare Part A and Part B, please apply for Medicare at least two months prior to your retirement date.