

Rx Kids Partner FAQs

What is the Rx Kids program?

Rx Kids is a universal cash payment program that aims to reach all expectant parents and infants in participating communities. Rx Kids provides no-strings-attached cash payments to expectant parents and their babies in the first year of their lives. Expectant parents will receive a one-time prenatal payment of \$1,500 at or after 16 weeks of pregnancy, followed by up to 6 monthly payments of \$500 during the infant's first six months of life. We do not issue the prenatal payment if an applicant applies after their baby is born. Payments stop when the baby turns 6 months old, so applicants may receive fewer than the maximum number of payments depending on when they apply.

Who is involved in administering Rx Kids?

Rx Kids is led by a partnership between GiveDirectly, Michigan State University (MSU), and the University of Michigan (UM), alongside many community partners. For questions about program eligibility and operations, reach out to GiveDirectly. For questions related to fundraising, research, press/media communications, or policy & advocacy, reach out to MSU and UM. Primary points of contact for each organization are listed below:

- GiveDirectly:
 - [Laura Keen](#) for fundraising/contracting
 - [Ash Taylor-Beierl](#) for general program-related questions
 - [Hani Barghouthi](#) for Wayne County community-specific questions
- MSU:
 - [Dr. Mona Hanna](#)
 - [Tiffany Ceja](#) for administrative support
 - [Laura Cane](#) for community engagement and storytelling support
- UM:
 - [Dr. Luke Shaefer](#)
 - [Karissa Knapp](#) for social media support

Who is eligible to participate in Rx Kids?

You are eligible to participate in the program if you meet all of the following criteria:

- You are at least 16 years of age (minors must have parent/legal guardian consent at time of application)
- You are a resident of a participating community in Michigan, which currently includes the following:
 - The City of Flint
 - The City of Kalamazoo
 - Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft Counties in the Eastern Upper Peninsula
 - The City of Pontiac
 - Selected Wayne County communities (Highland Park, Inkster, Melvindale, River Rouge, Hamtramck)
 - Clare County
- You are currently 16+ weeks pregnant, or have a baby born on or after September 1, 2025

What's the process for applying to Rx Kids?

1. Interested individuals must complete the online intake form, including providing all requested documentation (proof of identity, two forms of proof of residency, proof of pregnancy or infant birth). The process is expected to take ~30 minutes to complete and must be done online; paper forms will not be provided.
2. The Rx Kids verification team reviews each submitted application to verify eligibility. If information is missing or needs to be recollected, we will reach out directly to the applicant via email and/or SMS. Not responding to follow-up requests could result in application processing delays or ineligibility due to inactivity, so please be on the lookout for any messages.
3. Once an application has been verified, payment will be issued within 2 weeks to the applicant's preferred payment method.

Can someone apply more than once?

Individuals can apply to Rx Kids once per eligible pregnancy/infant. If someone has multiple pregnancies within the program period, they can apply to participate multiple times.

What does it mean if someone's application was flagged for recollect?

If someone receives a recollection notification, it is because the Rx Kids verification team determined that the document was either missing key information, not within the correct timeframe, or not an acceptable document type. This does not mean they were denied, but it does mean they need to make a correction.

To correct their information, applicants should carefully review the [applicant guidebook](#) and [acceptable documents list](#), and application instructions to ensure they are uploading valid documents. If someone has questions about what documents they need to provide, please direct them to contact our help desk via the information listed below.

What does it mean if someone's application was denied?

If someone receives a notification that their application was denied, it is because the Rx Kids verification team determined that one or more of their submitted documents demonstrated ineligibility. Application decisions are final, but if someone has questions or believes there has been a mistake, please direct them to contact our help desk via the information listed below.

How are people paid?

Payments are sent on approximately the 1st of every month, with the exception of the first payment, which is issued within 2 weeks of an applicant being verified.

If someone selects ACH/direct deposit as their preferred payment method, please note that it can take an additional 3-5 business days for the banking service to process their payment.

If someone selects a debit card as their preferred payment method, they will need to [schedule a debit card pick-up appointment with a member of the Rx Kids team](#). If someone is unable to attend an in-person appointment, they can contact the help desk to learn about alternate options.

Rx Kids payments are not guaranteed, even after successful enrollment. GiveDirectly's ability to issue payments depends on the receipt of continued funding from our donors.

What are recipients required to do?

Recipients will be asked to complete a brief follow-up survey after each payment. This helps us make sure all payments are received successfully. This survey is mandatory, and failure to complete it will block future payments.

How does Rx Kids impact recipient benefits and/or taxes?

Rx Kids has worked to secure protections for most public benefits, with the exception of Supplemental Security Income (SSI). If an individual or someone in their household receives SSI, they may be at risk of a loss or reduction of benefits.

WIC benefits are protected for families who are also receiving benefits from FAP or Medicaid. Families on WIC who are not receiving FAP or Medicaid may need to report Rx Kids payments in income calculations for WIC.

Those receiving benefits that may be impacted by the program will have an option to receive benefits counseling; however, we encourage people to reach out directly to their caseworker or benefits office for any specific benefits-related questions.

The payments received in this program qualify as a tax-exempt charitable gift under IRS rules. As such, individuals do not need to claim it as income on tax returns. If someone requires documentation of this gift for tax purposes, they should contact our help desk via the information listed below, and we can provide an award letter.

Who should applicants reach out to if they have any other questions?

Additional FAQs and materials can be found in the Rx Kids Applicant Guidebook at tinyurl.com/rxkidsguide . For any other program questions or application status inquiries, individuals should contact the Rx Kids help desk at www.givedirectly.org/support or by emailing our team directly at support@rxkids.zendesk.com.