

Sources of Financial Assistance

The financial costs associated with cancer are often overwhelming. Even with insurance, many people are underinsured. For the uninsured and those who cannot work, a financial crisis may develop. This fact sheet describes various sources of financial assistance. It includes phone numbers and websites we have found to be useful. If you do not have access to a computer or have difficulty using one, consider visiting a public library. Most libraries provide access to computers and have staff members who can assist you.

Government Assistance

There are a number of federal and state programs that provide financial benefits to individuals and families. These benefits, known as entitlements, include programs such as Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare, Medicaid and public assistance. These programs are primarily set up for low-income households, the elderly, and the disabled. Each has eligibility requirements. There are also a variety of programs administered through state governments that can help with health care-related needs.

- For information about **Social Security** benefits, visit www.ssa.gov or call **1-800-772-1213**.
- For information about medical assistance through **Medicare** and **Medicaid**, visit www.cms.hhs.gov or call **1-877-267-2323**.
- To find out about benefits such as public assistance or food stamps, contact your local **Department of Human Services** (check phonebook for listings) or visit www.os.dhhs.gov.
- If you are an older adult, you might be eligible for benefits through the **U.S. Administration on Aging**. For information, visit www.eldercare.gov to access the Eldercare Locator or call **1-800-677-1116**.



Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance Programs

In addition to conducting research and developing new medicines, many pharmaceutical companies have patient assistance programs. Programs and services offered differ from company to company but may include help with insurance reimbursement, referrals to co-pay relief programs, and help with the application process. Many companies also offer medications at little or no cost to individuals who do not qualify for other assistance.

To find a patient assistance program, consult the websites of the specific drug companies that manufacture the medications you take. Or, ask your doctor about patient assistance programs for the drugs you are prescribed.

For links to pharmaceutical programs and other resources for financial assistance, log onto the **Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA)** website, www.pparx.org. To speak with a patient assistance program specialist, call **1-888-4-PPA-NOW**.

Nonprofit Programs for Co-Pay Relief

There are a number of nonprofit organizations that provide help for expenses such as drug co-payments, deductibles, and other medical costs. These programs offer different types of assistance and have their own eligibility requirements. Contact each organization to learn more.

- Patient Access Network Foundation – www.patientaccessnetwork.org or 1-866-316-7263
- Healthwell Foundation – www.healthwellfoundation.org or 1-800-675-8416
- Patient Advocate Foundation's Co-Pay Relief Program – www.copays.org or 1-866-512-3861
- Patient Services Incorporated – www.uneedpsi.org or 1-800-366-7741
- National Organization for Rare Disorders – www.rarediseases.org or 1-203-744-0100
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society – www.lls.org/copay or 1-877-557-2672
- CancerCare Co-Payment Assistance Foundation – www.cancercarecopay.org or 1-866-55-COPAY

Nonprofit Organizations for Help with Practical Needs

In addition to help with managing the cost of medicines and treatment, people with cancer often need assistance with things like transportation, household help, and child care. To help with these practical needs and other concerns, a number of nonprofit organizations have useful programs or referral information. These organizations include:

General Organizations

- The American Cancer Society's Community Resource Connection (CRC) – www.cancer.org or 1-800-ACS-2345
- United Way – national.unitedway.org (check phonebook for local office)
- Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, Jewish Family Services, and various community and social service organizations (check phonebook for listings)

Cancer Organizations

- CancerCare – www.cancercare.org or 1-800-813-HOPE (4673)
- American Cancer Society – www.cancer.org or 1-800-ACS-2345
- Brain Tumor Society (BTS Cares) – www.tbts.org or 1-800-770-8287
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society – www.lls.org or 1-800-955-4572
- Lymphoma Research Foundation – www.lymphoma.org or 1-800-500-9976
- National Brain Tumor Foundation – www.braintumor.org or 1-800-934-2873
- National Marrow Donor Program – www.marrow.org or 1-888-999-6743

CancerCare Can Help

At CancerCare our oncology social workers are experts in financial issues. We are familiar with assistance programs offered by government agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and nonprofit organizations, and will work with you to get the help you need. We also provide limited grants for those who qualify for cancer-related expenses like transportation, child care, and home care. Call us at 1-800-813-HOPE (4673) or visit www.cancercare.org to learn more.

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