

Ohio Department of Health
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Tips for Finding Financial Resources



Learning that you, a family member or a friend has cancer is a very stressful and emotional time. Making decisions and finding resources can seem overwhelming. As a family copes with the cancer diagnosis and treatment, financial concerns can be quite a burden.

We hope this revised guide will help direct people to resources that can provide some financial relief as they battle cancer. Most of the resources listed in this guide are resources available at the national level, but with local affiliates. The staff at the national numbers listed will work with you to determine resources available in your area. A number of the organizations, including the American Cancer Society, provide patient navigators, who will confidentially gather basic information regarding the patient's circumstances and work with a variety of both local and national resources to find financial relief. Financial resources include, but are not limited to, aid for treatment, drug prescription relief, transportation and utilities.

National and Local Resources

American Cancer Society

(800) ACS-2345

<http://www.cancer.org>

- Offers many cancer programs for patients, families, caregivers and the community. Referrals for financial assistance, medication, equipment and other resources are available. Toll-free number and Web site provide information 24 hours a day.

Air Charity Network

<http://aircharitynetwork.org>

(877) 621-7177

- Provides access for people in need of free air transportation to specialized health care facilities or remote destinations due to family, community or national crises.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP)

(614) 728-2177

www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/hpr/bc_canc/bcanc1.aspx

- Breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic program offered at no cost to eligible women. Eligible women are scheduled for screening and diagnostic services with providers in their area. This program also provides Medicaid coverage of treatment and health care to eligible women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer or pre-cancerous conditions through the BCCP screening program.

CancerCare

(800) 813-HOPE

<http://www.cancercare.org>

- Limited financial assistance for eligible cancer patients seeking help with transportation, home care, child care and pain medication costs. Linking Arms program can provide assistance for breast cancer patients to help with oral medications and lymphedema supply costs.

CancerCare Co-Payment Assistance Foundation

(866) 55-COPAY

<http://www.cancercarecopay.org>

- This program provides co-payment assistance for pharmaceutical products to insured individuals who are covered by private insurance, employer-sponsored health plan or have Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage. Household income must be at or within 400% US Federal Poverty guidelines for people residing and receiving treatment in the United States or its territories. Must be U.S. citizen or valid resident alien. Conditions covered include breast, lung, colorectal, pancreatic, head and neck and glioblastoma cancer.

Cancer Support Community

(888) 793-9355

<http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org>

- Offers online and in-person cancer support groups; coping with the cost of care brochure; assistance finding financial aid.

Chronic Disease Fund

(877) 968-7233

<http://www.cdfund.org>

- Charitable organization providing financial assistance to underinsured patients who cannot afford the co-payments for the expensive medications they need. Patient financial eligibility determined by provider. Conditions covered include breast, colon, non-small cell lung cancer and multiple myeloma.

Eldercare Locator

(800) 677-1116

<http://www.eldercare.gov/Eldercare/Public/Home.asp>

- Eldercare Locator information specialists link callers with state and area agencies on aging for information and referral to local agencies that provide a range of services to seniors including meals, home care, transportation and caregiver support services.

Fertile Hope

(866) 673-7295

<http://www.fertilehope.org>

- Non profit, national organization providing reproduction information, hope and support to cancer patients and survivors whose medical treatments create the risk of infertility. Web site provides information on a number of financial assistance programs designed to help with the cost of fertility preservation and parenthood following a diagnosis of cancer.

GovBenefits.gov

(800) 333-4636

<http://www.govbenefits.gov>

- Web site provides an easily accessible and confidential online screening tool designed to generate a list of government benefit programs the user may be eligible to receive, along with information about the application process.

Healthwell Foundation

(800) 675-8416

<http://www.healthwellfoundation.org>

- The foundation assists patients who cannot afford their prescription drug co-insurance, co-payments and deductibles, health insurance premiums and other out-of-pocket health care costs. Eligibility based on patient's individual financial, medical and insurance situation. Offers assistance for the following specific conditions: breast cancer; carcinoid tumors and related symptoms; chemotherapy-induced anemia/neutropenia; colorectal cancer; cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma; head and neck cancers; Hodgkin's Disease; Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; non-small cell lung cancer and Wilm's tumor.

Hill-Burton Facilities

(800) 638-0742

<http://www.hrsa.gov/hillburton/default.htm>

- Affiliated hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities provide a reasonable volume of services to people who cannot afford payment for their hospitalization and make their

services available to all residents in the facility's area.

Hope Lodge – American Cancer Society

(800) ACS-2345

<http://www.cancer.org/docroot/subsite/hopelodge>

- Free lodging available to patients and caregivers actively undergoing cancer treatment on an outpatient basis. Patients must live at least 40 miles or one hour away from the treatment facility. Priority is given to patients needing three or more nights of lodging. Patients must be at least 18 years old (with some exceptions) and be independently mobile in the event of an emergency.

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

(800) 955-4572

<http://www.LLS.org>

- Offers assistance up to patients with leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma for some uncovered expenses including prescriptions, certain medical tests and transportation.

Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF)

(866) 673-7205

<http://www.cancercare.org>

<http://www.livestrong.org>

- Online topics help you find support, assistance and ways to deal with financial challenges during the cancer experience. The LIVESTRONG SurvivorCare program includes counseling and referrals to local resources to help address financial and insurance concerns.

Ohio Medicaid

(800) 324-8680

<http://www.ifs.ohio.gov/OHP/index.stm>

- Ohio Medicaid is a federal-state-funded program that provides health care coverage to a number of different groups of people who meet certain financial requirements. These groups include low-income children, some parents, pregnant women and aged, blind or disabled individuals.

Medicare

(800) 633-4227

<http://www.medicare.gov>

- Medicare is a federal health insurance program. Eligible individuals include those who are 65 or older, people of any age with permanent kidney failure and disabled people under age 65. Medicare Part A pays for hospital, home health and hospice care and care in Medicare-certified nursing facilities. Medicare Part B covers medically necessary services including diagnostic studies, physician's services, durable home medical equipment and ambulance transportation along with some screening exams for cancer.

National Marrow Donor Program

(888) 999-6743

<http://www.marrow.org>

- Program is for patients in need of a life-saving bone marrow or cord blood cell transplant through the National Marrow Donor Program. This program helps patients pay for an unrelated search of the National

Bone Marrow registry and/or for some post-transplant costs.

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)

(800) 999-6673

<http://www.rarediseases.org>

- Provides financial assistance for life-saving or life-sustaining medications to uninsured or under-insured patients. Offers co-payment assistance for specific rare forms of cancer.

National Patient Travel Helpline

(800) 296-1217

<http://www.patienttravel.org>

- Provides financially eligible patients access to long-distance medical air transportation for specialized medical evaluation, diagnosis or treatment facilities. Makes referrals to national charitable medical air transportation network.

NeedyMeds

<http://www.needymeds.com>

- This is a nonprofit organization that assists people who are having difficulty affording medicine or with health care costs. This system is free, anonymous and Web-based. System is similar to that of a Yellow Pages-type directory, helping people find assistance programs and resources in their area.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA)

(888) 477-2669

<http://www.pparx.org>

- The Partnership for Prescription Assistance helps match patients who lack prescription coverage and cannot afford medication to prescription programs that provide free or low-cost medications to eligible patients. Provides a single point of access to more than 475 public and private patient assistance programs. Assistance included for the uninsured.

Patient Access Network Foundation

(866) 316-7263

<http://www.panfoundation.org>

- Offers financial assistance to patients having difficulty accessing treatment due to costs including deductibles, co-payments and co-insurance. Offers assistance for the following conditions: breast cancer, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, cutaneous t-cell lymphoma, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndrome, anemia, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Non-small cell lung cancer, pancreatic cancer and oncology cytoprotection.

Patient Advocate Foundation's Co-Pay Relief Program

(866) 512-3861

<http://www.copays.org>

- Provides direct help to financially and medically eligible insured patients (including Medicare Part D beneficiaries) for pharmaceutical co-

payment assistance. Qualifying conditions include breast, lung, prostate, kidney, colon, pancreatic, head/neck cancers, malignant brain tumor, lymphoma, sarcoma, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndrome (and other pre-leukemia diseases), selected autoimmune disorders and secondary issues as a result of chemotherapy treatment.

Patient Services Incorporated (PSI)

(800) 366-7741

<http://www.uneedpsi.org>

- Assists people who live with specific chronic health conditions to find appropriate health insurance coverage and access ways to satisfy expensive co-payments and premiums. Offers assistance for the following specific conditions: bone metastases, chronic myeloid leukemia, chronic myelocytic leukemia, cutaneous t-cell lymphoma and gastrointestinal stromal tumors.

Ronald McDonald Houses

(630) 623-7048

<http://www.rmhc.com>

- Provides low-cost or no-cost housing to families of seriously ill children who are receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. Families are asked to make a small donation for their stay (up to \$25 per day) when possible.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

(901) 495-3300

<http://www.stjude.org>

- Provides treatment and care to children with catastrophic illnesses. All children accepted for treatment at St. Jude are treated without regard to the family's ability to pay.

Social Security Administration

(800) 772-1213

<http://www.ssa.gov>

- Provides monthly income for eligible elderly and disabled individuals. Administered by the Social Security Administration.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

(800) 772-1213

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov.ssi>

- Supplements Social Security payments for aged, blind and disabled people with little or no income. Provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter. Please check for eligibility requirements.

State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)

(877) KIDS-NOW

<http://www.insurekidsnow.gov>

- Federal and state program that offers low-cost or no-cost health insurance coverage to uninsured infants, children and teens. Callers will be referred to the Ohio program to determine eligibility and minimum qualifications.

United Way

(703) 836-7112

<http://www.liveunited.org>

- The United Way provides information about local charities and programs that may be able to provide financial and resource support.

Veterans Administration (VA)

(877) 222-VETS

<http://www1.va.gov/health>

- Provides eligible veterans with treatment for service-connected injuries and other medical conditions. The VA has a cancer program designed to help veterans access information on cancer prevention, detection and treatment services.

Volunteers in HealthCare

<http://www.RxAssist.org>

- Provides patients and physicians with information on pharmaceutical companies that provide free or reduced-cost medicines to patients in need. Eligibility varies from program to program but typically, individuals must have incomes under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, cannot have prescription coverage and must be a U.S. resident or citizen.

References

National Cancer Institute Fact Sheet, *Financial Assistance and Other Resources for People with Cancer*, <http://www.cancer.gov>

CancerCare, *Financial Help for People with Cancer*, <http://www.cancercare.org>

Ohio Partners for Cancer Control, *Cancer Survivorship Resource Guide*, <http://www.ohiocancercontrol.org>

Financial Resources

The Ohio Department of Health
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov>



Optimal Health for all Ohioans

Ted Strickland, Governor
Alvin D. Jackson, M.D., Director of Health

Office of Healthy Ohio
Nan Migliozi, Director
www.healthyohioprogram.org

Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Robert Indian, Chief
Mary B. Lynn, Researcher
Stephani Francis, Program Consultant
Stacy Lender, Program Consultant
Debbie Wallace, Administrative Assistant

For additional information about this report, contact
Mary Lynn at mary.lynn@odh.ohio.gov, 614-995-5433

or:

Ohio Department of Health
246 N. High St.
Office of Healthy Ohio – 8th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-466-2144

Funding was made possible by grant or cooperative agreement #CSP906308 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Document Revision June, 2010.