

Hospital Free Care



Who can get Free Care?

You have a right to “medically necessary” care at any hospital in Maine, even if you can’t pay for it. If your household income is at or under the level listed below, you can get that care free of charge.

And, many hospitals in Maine give Free Care to people with higher incomes! Look to the back page for a list of Free Care Programs with income guidelines above what is listed below.

2011 Income Limits for Free Care at ANY Hospital in Maine

Family Size	Monthly Income
1	\$1,362
2	\$1,839
3	\$2,317
4	\$2,794
5	\$3,272
Add for each additional family member	\$478

For more information call
1-800-965-7476

What services can I get?

Hospitals must provide Free Care to eligible people for “medically necessary” hospital services. This often means emergency services only and may not include services like lab work, surgeries, and other services. To find out if a Hospital Free Care Program covers services in addition to emergency services, you can contact the hospital Patient Accounts Office (billing office) for that hospital or call the Department of Health & Human Services.

How do I apply?

Call the hospital and ask for the Patient Accounts Office (billing office), or ask for the hospital’s Free Care Program. They will speak to you about Free Care and help you to fill out an application. Sometimes hospitals ask that you apply for MaineCare as a first step.

What if my application is denied?

If your application is denied, the hospital will give you a denial letter. If you believe you should have been accepted, you can appeal. To appeal, you must request an administrative fair hearing from the Department of Health and Human Services within 60 days of the date of the denial letter. Your request can be made in writing or over the phone. The request must be made to the Administrative Hearings Unit, DHHS, 32 Blossom Lane, Augusta, ME 04333 or by calling 207-287-3610. If you have a problem with a Free Care program other than denial of your application, please call the Health Care HelpLine at 1-800-965-7476.

If you believe that the denial is correct, there may be other programs for sliding-scale help. Look at our **Hospital Sliding-Scale Care** flyer or call the Health Care HelpLine at 1-800-965-7476 for more information.

How is income calculated?

The hospital may ask you for proof of household income (like check stubs or tax returns). The hospital can look at income over the past 12 months OR the the past 3 months. You may qualify if your income is under the limit for EITHER time period. If you do not qualify one way, you may qualify the other way! For example, looking at the last 3 months may help people with higher yearly income if their income dropped in the 3 months before the application.

2011 Income Limits

Hospitals

For these programs, asset limits may also be looked at when income is over \$1,362/mo for an individual (or \$1,839/mo for a family of two; add \$478/mo for each additional family member).

<p>\$1,362/mo for an individual (\$1,839/mo for a family of two; add \$478/mo for each additional family member)</p>	<p><i>FREE CARE at ALL Maine Hospitals</i></p>
<p>\$1,589/mo for an individual (\$2,146/mo for a family of two; add \$558/mo for each additional family member)</p>	<p><i>Maine General Medical Center Maine Medical Center Mayo Regional Hospital Miles Memorial Hospital Southern Maine Medical Center Spring Harbor Hospital St. Andrews Hospital Stephens Memorial Hospital</i></p>
<p>\$1,726/mo for an individual (\$2,330/mo for a family of two; add \$604/mo for each additional family member)</p>	<p><i>Cary Medical Center</i></p>
<p>\$1,816/mo for an individual (\$2,452/mo for a family of two; add \$636/mo for each additional family member)</p>	<p><i>Aroostook Medical Center Blue Hill Memorial Hospital Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital Down East Community Hospital Eastern Maine Medical Center Franklin Memorial Hospital Goodall Hospital Inland Hospital Mid-Coast Hospital Northern Maine Medical Center Parkview Adventist Medical Center Penobscot Valley Hospital Sebasticook Valley Hospital St. Joseph Hospital St. Mary's Regional Medical Center Waldo County General Hospital York Hospital</i></p>
<p>\$2,270/mo for an individual (\$3,065/mo for a family of two; add \$795/mo for each additional family member)</p>	<p><i>Redington-Fairview General Hospital</i></p>
<p>\$2,724/mo for an individual (\$3,678/mo for a family of two; add \$954/mo for each additional family member)</p>	<p><i>Bridgton Hospital Central Maine Medical Family</i></p>

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**Consumers for
AFFORDABLE
Health Care**

For more information or to find out about other health care programs, call our Health Care HelpLine at 1-800-965-7476.