

# Hospital Free Care

Maine Hospitals must provide Free Care if you qualify.

## Who can get Free Care?

You have the 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 monthly income listed below, you can get that care free of charge:

- Up to \$1,485 a month for one person
- Up to \$2,003 a month for a family of 2
- Up to \$2,520 a month for a family of 3
- Up to \$3,038 a month for a family of 4
- For families bigger than 4, just add \$520 for each additional family member

**Plus, many hospitals in Maine give Free Care to people with higher incomes!**  
Turn this flyer over for a list of Free Care Programs with income guidelines that are higher.

## What services can I get?

Hospitals **must** provide Free Care to eligible people for “**medically necessary**” hospital services. Sometimes this means emergency services only. It may not include things like lab work, or other services. To find out what Free Care covers at a hospital, you can call and ask about their Free Care program.

## How do I apply?

Call the hospital and tell them you have questions about Free Care. They might transfer you to the billing or patient financial services department, but each hospital is different. They will tell you about Free Care and can help you fill out their application. Sometimes hospitals ask you to apply for MaineCare as a first step.

## What if they deny my application?

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 within 60 days of the date of the denial letter. You can request your hearing:

- **In writing:** Maine Department of Health and Human Services,  
Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services  
11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011
- **By phone:** 207-287-9216.

Whether the denial is correct or not, there may be other programs to help. Call our HelpLine at 1-800-965-7476 for other ideas to help with health care costs.

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**Consumers for  
Affordable  
Health Care**

Consumer Assistance HelpLine:  
**1-800-965-7476**  
[www.maineahc.org](http://www.maineahc.org)

**PO Box 2490  
Augusta, ME  
04338-2490**

## How do they calculate my income?

The hospital may ask you for check stubs, tax returns or other documents to prove your income. They can look at income over the past 12 months OR 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.



### I think our income is too high...

Even if you think your income is too high for Free Care, payment plans or discount programs may be options for you. Ask your hospital about its Sliding-Scale program or call our HelpLine at 1-800-965-7476.

2015 Income Guidelines	Hospital Guidelines*
<p>A single person with income at or less than \$1,485 a month can get Free Care at all Maine hospitals.</p> <p>(\$2,003 a month for a family of two; add \$520 a month for each additional family member)</p>	<p>By law, medically necessary Free Care is available at <b>ALL Maine Hospitals</b> for people with income under this level.</p>
<p>A single person with income at or less than \$1,733 a month can get Free Care at these hospitals.</p> <p>(\$2,337 a month for a family of two; add \$607 a month for each additional family member)</p>	<p>Maine General Medical Center Maine Medical Center Mayo Regional Hospital Miles Memorial Penobscot Bay Medical Center Southern Maine Medical Center Spring Harbor Hospital St Andrews Hospital Stephens Memorial Hospital Waldo County General Hospital</p>
<p>A single person with income at or less than \$1,881 a month can get Free Care at this hospital.</p> <p>(\$2,536 a month for a family of two; add \$659 a month for each additional family member)</p>	<p>Cary Medical Center</p>
<p>A single person with income at or less than \$1,980 a month qualify can get Free Care at these hospitals.</p> <p>(\$2,670 a month for a family of two; add \$694 a month for each additional family member)</p>	<p>Bridgton Hospital Central Maine Medical Center (CMMC) Inland Hospital Mid-Coast Hospital Rumford Community Hospital St. Joseph Hospital St Mary's Regional Medical Center York Hospital</p>
<p>Hospitals may also look at your <b>assets</b>, but only when your income is over \$1,485/month for one person (\$2,003/month for a family of two; add \$520/month for each additional family member).</p>	

\*Figures based on reported 2016 eligibility levels. Some hospitals may be in the process of changing their guidelines. Call your hospital's billing department to check your eligibility.