

2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Household Size	Poverty Level 100%	Poverty Level 150%	Poverty Level 200%	Poverty Level 300%
1	\$12,060	\$18,090	\$24,120	\$36,180
2	\$16,240	\$24,360	\$32,480	\$48,720
3	\$20,420	\$30,630	\$40,840	\$61,260
4	\$24,600	\$36,900	\$49,200	\$73,800
5	\$28,780	\$43,170	\$57,560	\$86,340
6	\$32,960	\$49,440	\$65,920	\$98,880
7	\$37,140	\$55,710	\$74,280	\$111,420
8	\$41,320	\$61,980	\$82,640	\$123,960

List of Resources

CLEAR Hotline

Outside King County

Those with low incomes may call CLEAR (Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral) at 1-888-201-1014

You can call CLEAR Monday-Friday from 9:15am to 12:15pm

Seniors, ages 60+, may call CLEAR*Sr at 1-888-387-7111, regardless of income

Inside King County

Call 2-1-1

Deaf and hard of hearing callers can call 1-800-833-6384 or 711 for a free relay operator to connect to CLEAR

Online Self-Help

Visit WashingtonLawHelp.org for free legal publications and self-help packets



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For more information on your Charity Care rights, contact the numbers below:

Eastern/Central WA:

509-662-0911 Ext. 134

ivy.rosa@columbialegal.org

Western WA:

206-287-9664

annabell.joya@columbialegal.org

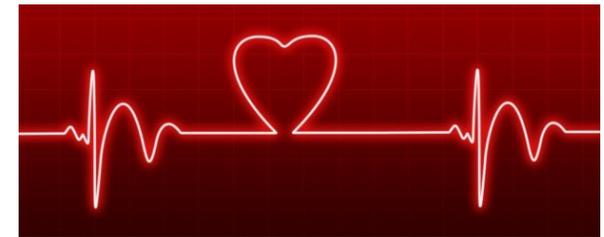
Or visit us online at:

www.columbialegal.org



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CHARITY CARE 2017



**DO YOU QUALIFY
FOR FREE OR
DISCOUNTED
HOSPITAL CARE?**

Access to Charity Care

What is Charity Care?

Washington State law requires all hospitals to provide Charity Care (also called financial assistance). You may qualify for free or reduced-cost hospital care based on your family size and income (see chart on reverse).

If you need health care in a hospital, have a bill from a hospital, or if the bill has been sent to collections, ask the hospital for a Charity Care application to find out if you qualify for free care or a discount.

What does Charity Care cover?

Charity Care is for uninsured and underinsured patients and it covers medically necessary services; not just emergencies.

Charity Care can be used for any deposits required by the hospital, copayments, deductibles, or anything insurance does not pay.

Charity Care may not cover non-hospital services, such as lab tests, anesthesia, or physician charges. But if you are low income and you ask those providers directly, sometimes they will reduce your bills based on their own financial assistance policies.

How do I ask for Charity Care?

If you cannot pay your hospital bill, let the hospital know. The hospital is required to screen you for Charity Care eligibility. Or ask for a Charity Care application and fill it out.

You can ask for Charity Care at any time, even after your bill has been turned over to collections or you have been sued for the hospital bill.

If you have been sued, ask for Charity Care right away and tell the debt collector and judge that you are applying for Charity Care.

What do I have to do?

Fill out the application and turn it in. You will have to show your income to get Charity Care. You only need to give the hospital one of following papers:

- Recent pay stubs
- Last year's income tax return or W-2
- Written statements from an employer

If you don't have these, the hospital must accept a signed statement from you. Make copies of all papers and the application before you send them in.

The hospital must decide within 14 days whether you are eligible. If you are denied Charity Care, the hospital must tell you why or ask for additional information.

Do I have to be a citizen or legal resident to receive Charity Care?

No. The hospital cannot ask you about immigration status or make you provide a social security number.

How do I know if I qualify for Charity Care?

You qualify for free care at any hospital in the state if your "family income" is at or below 100% of the federal poverty level and for a discount if your "family income" is between 100-200% of the federal poverty level. Many hospitals offer free care and discounts to patients with higher incomes. Use the chart on the reverse side of this brochure to see if you qualify, and remember to ask if the hospital uses higher income guidelines.

What is "family income"?

Family income is your income combined with the income of all other people in your household who are related to you by birth, marriage, or adoption.