

# Hospital Free Care



Consumers for  
**AFFORDABLE**  
Health Care

1-800-965-7476 • [www.maine cahc.org](http://www.maine cahc.org)

*Advocating the right to quality, affordable health care for every man, woman, and child.*



## 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.

### 2009 Income Limits for Free Care at ANY Hospital in Maine

Family Size	Monthly Income
1	\$1,354
2	\$1,822
3	\$2,289
4	\$2,757
5	\$3,224
Add for each additional family member	\$468

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, 11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011 or by calling 207-287-8792.

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.