

Financial Assistance

Being diagnosed with a brain tumor takes a toll on the individual and his or her family, not only physically and emotionally, but also financially. Below, you will find a listing of various resources of financial assistance that may help to alleviate some of the stresses associated with this difficult time. In addition to this listing, it may also be helpful to check with your local hospital's social services department for more information on community-based resources and programs.

Medical Care

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

800-772-1213

www.socialsecurity.gov

Contact your local Social Security Office to determine if you qualify for SSI or SSDI. The medical requirements and disability determination process are the same under both programs. Eligibility for SSDI is based on prior work under Social Security, while SSI is based on financial need.

Hill-Burton Funds

800-638-0742

www.hrsa.gov/hillburton/hillburtonfacilities.htm

Hill-Burton Funds are federal grants that allow hospitals and nursing homes to provide low-cost or no-cost medical care to those meeting income guidelines. Contact Hill-Burton to receive a listing of hospitals or nursing homes participating in the program. Funding and sites are limited.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Primary Health Care

888-275-4772

<http://bphc.hrsa.gov>

Provides information on public programs for the uninsured.

Prescription Drugs

Patient Assistance Programs (PAP's)

Most major pharmaceutical companies have patient assistance programs offering free or low cost medication to those who cannot afford their prescriptions.

Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association

800-762-4636

www.phrma.org

Provides guidelines and listings of PAP's-your physician must complete the medication request.



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Partnership for Prescription Assistance

888-477-2669

www.pparx.org

Offers a single point of access to more than 475 public, state and private patient assistance programs, including more than 180 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.

Medical Rights Center

212-869-3850

www.medicarerights.org

Provides information on how to locate prescription assistance or discount programs.

Medicare Prescription Drug Program

800-MEDICARE

www.medicare.gov

The Medicare Prescription Drug program gives patients a choice of prescription plans that offer various types of coverage. You may be able to get extra help to pay for the premiums, annual deductibles and co-payments related to the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage program. However, you must be enrolled in the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage program to get this extra help.

Discounted Prescription Drug Programs

Discounted prescription drugs are available at discount stores across the country. Check with the pharmacy currently filling your prescription(s) to see if they have discounted prescription drugs. If you are not using generic drugs, ask your doctor if any generic drugs are an appropriate choice for your prescription.

Wal-Mart Pharmacy Site

www.walmart.com/pharmacy

Wal-Mart offers a 90 day prescription supply for just \$10. \$4 generics offered through the Wal-Mart program included multiple strengths of dexamethasone (a steroid), prednisone (a steroid), carbamazepine (an antiepileptic drug), and several antidepressants.

Wegman's Food Markets

<https://www.wegmans.com/pdf/pharmacy/pharmacyGenericPriceList.pdf>

Some of the programs offer 30-day supplies, some are 90-day supplies, but each is offered at discounted rates. Their program includes a 90-day supply for \$11.99.

Target

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/health/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-004319>



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Co-Pay Assistnace

Healthwell Foundation

800-675-8416

www.healthwellfoundation.org

The foundation helps to bridge the gap by providing financial assistance to eligible patients to cover certain out-of-pocket costs related to copayments, deductibles and insurance premiums.

Patient Advocate Foundation

866-512-3861

www.copays.org

Their Co-Pay Relief Program offers co-payment assistance to patients with brain cancer. Program accepts calls beginning the first of each month until funds are depleted. Providers can also apply on behalf of their patients online.

Utilities

Assistance programs are offered by many gas, electric, water, and phone companies. If you feel you may have difficulty paying your monthly bills, contact the company before your balance becomes too large. Companies are more amenable to working out a payment plan with those willing to work with them. Many states have regulations that prohibit companies from turning off utilities; your doctor or social worker may need to write letters describing why the service(s) are medically necessary. The regulations do not diminish your responsibility for paying the bills, but may allow you more time or lower monthly payments. In an emergency situation, check with local help lines and social service agencies as some provide one-time emergency help with utility bills.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

866-674-6327

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/index.html

Helps low-income households meet their home energy needs.

For state and local contact information, please access: <http://liheap.ncat.org/profiles/energyhelp.htm>

Gasoline Assistance

Free Gas USA, Inc.

www.freegasusa.org

A nationwide non-profit assistance program for low-income people having trouble paying for gasoline. Applications can be made for gas grant cards that range in value from \$50 to \$1200, depending on need and circumstances. In order to be eligible for a gas card a person's yearly income must be at or below the "very low limit" category as defined by the US Department of HUD. An income calculator is available at the website. Applications are only available online, must be substantiated by a human service agency and applicants must be residents of the United States.



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Medical Supplies

The Cancer Fund of America

800-578-5284

www.cfoa.org

Provides for non-prescription medical needs such as nutritional supplements or incontinence supplies. Items available vary as the group receives donated products from companies. Patients or families members can call and be placed in their database for specific needs.

General Financial Assistance

Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies

800-634-7346

www.ajfca.org

Agencies provide help for medical equipment, supplies, prescriptions and transportation to medical care.

Bleed Purple

877-787-7558

www.bleedpurple.org

Provides grants to individuals with a cancer diagnosis who are currently in college or on a leave of absence from an undergraduate university. Priority will be given to individuals that incur substantial medical bills.

Brenda Mehling Cancer Fund

661-310-7940

www.bmcf.net

The BMCF supports patients between the ages of 18-40 currently undergoing cancer treatment with services to meet daily needs. It provides home health care services, co-payments required by many health plans for medical care, temporary housing, and other expenses for those temporarily unable to pay bills like rent, insurance, and food.

Catholic Charities, USA

703-549-1390

www.catholiccharitiesusa.org

Some local offices have limited funding available to provide emergency financial assistance.

Cancerbackup/Macmillan Cancer Support

0808-800-1234

www.cancerbackup.org.uk or www.macmillan.org.uk

Provides financial help for those individuals in the UK only who are having financial difficulty as a result of their illness.



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Sharing Resources

Cancer Care

800-813-HOPE

www.cancercare.org

Offer a variety of financial assistance programs, call for eligibility requirements.

Friends of Man

303-798-2342

www.friendsofman.org

Friends of Man is an all volunteer charity to help people with basic or special needs that cannot be provided elsewhere. They will assist with prostheses, wheelchairs, medical equipment, mobility equipment, hearing aids and orthopedic shoes. Application must be filled out by a healthcare professional.

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Co-Pay Assistance Fund

877-557-2672

www.leukemia-lymphoma.org

Provides co-pay assistance funds for patients with CNS Lymphoma, up to \$5,000 per calendar year. This program offers assistance towards the cost of private health insurance premiums and co-pays as well as Medicare co-pays and premiums. As well as costs related to prescription medications.

Mission4Maureen

www.mission4maureen.com

Mission4Maureen is dedicated to providing financial assistance to families who are burdened with the staggering cost of brain cancer treatment. Financial aid is available for medical bills as well as child care, housing payments, utility bills, transportation, medication and other areas of assistance. An application with supporting documentation is required.

Netwish

www.netwish.org

Will provide assistance, up to \$500.00 for those who are able to demonstrate a financial need.

No Wooden Nickels

www.nowoodennickels.org

Provides assistance to cancer patients in the following areas: medical expenses, transportation assistance, utilities, meals, home care, child care and special clothing needs.



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Sharing Resources

Rise Above It

www.raibenefit.org

RAI is focused on providing financial assistance to young adult patients battling cancer. Patients need to have been diagnosed between the ages of 15 and 39 and must be Rise undergoing or actively pursuing clinical trial treatment options. Requests may be made for medical expenses, housing costs, travel expenses as well as food, clothing and utility bills.

Salvation Army

703-684-5500

www.salvationarmyusa.org

Local units can offer emergency financial assistance to families.

Surviving and Moving Forward: The SAMFund for Young Adult Survivors of Cancer

www.thesamfund.org

Provide various grants and scholarships to young adult survivors, ages 18-35, to help supplement the money that they and their families have lost during treatment, and pay for specific transitional issues, such as education, fertility options, living, job search and lingering medical expenses.

Food Programs

Meals on Wheels coordinates thousands of programs throughout the United States dedicated to delivering meals to those who are homebound. Some programs require a small donation. Each program determines eligibility. For a referral to the Meals on Wheels serving your area, contact the national Eldercare office at 800-677-1116. To locate additional food program options including congregate meal programs, contact MealCall at www.MealCall.org or and search their database for programs in your area. MealCall offers databases for both the United States as well as Canada.

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing grocery relief and financial support to communities throughout the United States. Participants can purchase groceries at a reduced cost through one of their host sites. There are currently sites in 32 different states. Visit their website at www.angelfoodministries.com or call 877-366-3646 to see if there is a program near you.

Programs for Children

Cancer Recovery Program

800-238-6479

www.CancerRecovery.org

The Children's Project provides gift bags, camp scholarships and limited emergency funding to pediatric oncology patients under the age of 18, in the United States.



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Sharing Resources

Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund

800-882-1435

Provides financial assistance to families who have a disabled child through the age of 21 generally to reimburse medical or equipment costs.

Clayton Dabney Foundation for Kids with Cancer

214-361-2600

www.claytondabney.org

Provides gifts, last wishes and financial assistance to families which will facilitate quality of family life and create everlasting memories. Child must be considered terminal, under the age of 21 and be referred by a healthcare professional. Cap per family is usually \$2,000.

First Hand Foundation

816-201-1569

www.firsthandfoundation.org

First Hand Foundation assists individual children who have health related needs and no financial resources to cover these expenses.

Foundation for Children with Cancer

314-843-9300

www.childrenwithcancer.org

Family must be referred by a healthcare professional and payments go directly to the vendor. There is currently a \$500 limit per family.

Friends4Michael Foundation

845-774-4809

www.friends4michael.org

Provides nonmedical financial assistance to children, up to the age of 18 at the time of diagnosis, afflicted with brain tumor and currently undergoing medical treatment. Requests must be submitted by a social worker.

Jake Owen Raborn Foundation

888-356-5253

www.jakesfoundation.org

Provides financial assistance to children diagnosed with pediatric cancer.

Jesica's Hope Chest

www.4jhc.org

Jesica's Hope Chest is dedicated to helping critically ill children and their families with costs beyond what is normally covered by private insurance policies and/or government medical assistance programs. They provide funds for such things as transportation and housing costs during treatment. JHC can also help supplement family income when a parent is unable to work due to a child's illness.



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Sharing Resources

Justin Scott Foster Foundation

973-448-1871

www.jsffoundation.com

Provides financial assistance to the families that are in financial crisis due to childhood cancer through their Family Emergency Financial Aid Program.

Kelly Ann Dolan Memorial Fund

215-643-0763

www.kadmf.org

Provides financial assistance to families of terminally, critically and chronically ill children. Referral must come from a healthcare worker. Child must reside in Pennsylvania, New Jersey or Delaware.

Melonhead Foundation

888-Melon-21

www.melonhead.org

Supports the needs of children with cancer and their families who are seeking alternative methods of healing. The foundation also disperses funds to patients for treatment needs and to the families for their personal needs.

National Children's Cancer Society

800-5-FAMILY

www.nationalchildrenscancersociety.org

Provides financial and in-kind assistance to children with cancer.

Nicki Leach Foundation

904-280-8916

www.nickileach.org

Provides financial assistance to children and young adults between the ages of 16 and 25 diagnosed with a life threatening, malignant medical condition. Helps with the costs of items they normally would not ask for but would love to receive, and provides a momentary diversion from the reality of living with cancer. Funding may help with car expenses, clothing, hair or makeup as well as for the purchase of a camera, computer or special trip.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

901-495-3300

www.stjude.org

Offers treatment protocols for pediatric brain tumors. All patients accepted are treated without regard to the family's ability to pay. Referral must be made through a physician.



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Sharing Resources

United Healthcare Children's Foundation

952-992-4459

www.unitedhealthcarechildrensfoundation.org

Offers financial assistance to cover medical services beyond what insurance will cover or if service is not covered by the policy at all. Children are eligible up to the age of 16, who are US citizens and are currently covered under a commercial health insurance policy. Generally assistance must be requested before services are obtained and funds will generally be paid directly to the facility. Grants up to \$5,000 per year.

Miscellaneous Programs

Cleaning for a Reason

877-337-3348

www.cleaningforareason.org

This non-profit offers free professional housecleaning services to improve the lives of women undergoing treatment for cancer. Provides once a month cleaning for four months. Currently available in approximately 40 states and Canada.

National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped

303-534-5360

www.nfdh.org

This organization offers a Donated Dental Services (DDS) program. DDS tends to the dental needs of the disabled, elderly or medically compromised individuals who cannot afford the necessary dental treatment. Their website offers contact information for each state to help you locate a participating program in your area.

General Information

New England Serve

617-574-9493

www.neserve.org

Offers a publication entitled, Paying the Bills, which offers tips for families on financing healthcare for their children with special needs. It is downloadable at their website.

Dignity Resources

877-563-2100

www.DignityResources.com

Website offers information on selling life insurance policies, reverse mortgages, COBRA, and HIPAA. They will review your individual case at no charge, to see which, if any, of these options is the best financial choice in your situation.



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Patient Advocate Foundation

800-532-5274

www.PatientAdvocate.org

Website offers a state by state directory of information for patients seeking financial relief for a broad range of needs including housing, utilities, food, transportation to medical treatment, and children's resources. Click on Resources, then Publications and finally, The National Financial Resources Guidebook for Patients, to search this directory.

Viatical Settlement Companies

Viatical companies purchase a patient's life insurance policy at a discounted rate, providing funds for the patient to use in any way they wish. The seller, in turn, signs over the policy to the viatical company. In general, any life insurance policy - group or individual - can be sold. The rate of return and eligibility criteria varies with each company, so carefully consider the offers of several companies. Tax implications and/or the effect of a viatical settlement on assistance programs should also be explored. A free brochure "Viatical Settlements: A Guide for People with Terminal Illnesses" can be obtained free by calling the Federal Trade Commission at 202-326-2222 or www.ftc.gov

This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice and does not provide advice on treatments or conditions for individual patients. All health and treatment decisions must be made in consultation with your physician (s), utilizing your specific medical information. The American Brain Tumor Association does not endorse any of the organizations listed or guarantee that individuals will qualify for the services they provide. Please contact each organization for their specific guidelines.

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