

Seeing Dollar Signs

After cancer, AYAs can look to a variety of groups for financial help.

THERE ARE MANY GROUPS that offer financial help to people with cancer who are having trouble keeping up with their medical and everyday expenses.

It can pay to seek out disease-specific patient advocacy groups, some of which offer grants. In addition, most pharmaceutical companies have patient assistance programs that offer medications at discounts or free to patients who are financially eligible; call the companies that make your medicines and ask how to apply to these programs. Finally, there are many nonprofit organizations that offer financial help to patients regardless of cancer type. Here is a list of some of them.



The Assistance Fund

855-845-3663; tafcares.org
Manages 40 funds that can help patients with cancer and other serious diseases to pay for their medications.

Benefits.gov

800-333-4636; benefits.gov
Online resource to find out about possible government assistance.

Blink Health

844-366-2211; blinkhealth.com
Can help patients save up to 95 percent on prescriptions through more than 57,000 participating pharmacies nationwide; open to anyone, but individuals who are uninsured or have high deductibles or expensive copays may benefit most.

Cancer Financial Assistance Coalition

cancerfac.org
Composed of 14 organizations that help provide support.

Cancer Information Service

800-422-6237; cancer.gov
Run by the federal government; can suggest organizations that offer advice on financial aid.

Family Reach

Boston office: 857-233-2764;
New Jersey office: 973-394-1411;
info@familyreach.org; familyreach.org
Helps patients with cancer financially through a network of social workers; offers a financial handbook at familyreach.org/financial-edu.

Friends of Man

303-798-2342; friendsofman.org
Provides medical equipment for various populations in need, including children, the elderly and the disabled.

Good Days

877-968-7233; info@mygooddays.org;
mygooddays.org
Provides financial assistance to patients who can't afford medication; helps with travel costs.

The HealthWell Foundation

800-675-8416;
portal@healthwellfoundation.org;
healthwellfoundation.org/contact
Provides financial assistance for medical treatment to insured patients living with chronic and life-altering illnesses.

Hill-Burton Program

800-638-0742; 800-492-0359;
HRSAAccessibility@hrsa.gov;
hrsa.gov/get-health-care/affordable/hill-burton/facilities.html
Pays for some eligible patients' use of hospitals built with the help of federal funding and must treat lower-income patients; provides hotline to the Department of Health and Human Services.

NeedyMeds

800-503-6897; info@needymeds.org;
needymeds.org
Maintains a website of free information on programs that help individuals who cannot afford medications and health care costs; provides a free drug discount card that offers up to 80 percent savings at thousands of pharmacies nationwide.

Patient Access Network Foundation

866-316-7263; info@panfoundation.org;
panfoundation.org/index.php/en/contact
Helps underinsured people with life-threatening, chronic and rare diseases get the medications and treatment they need by paying for their out-of-pocket costs and advocating for improved access and affordability.

Patient Advocate Foundation

800-532-5274; help@patientadvocate.org;
patientadvocate.org, copays.org
Offers free copay relief programs; acts as a liaison between patients and their insurers, employers and creditors to help resolve insurance, job retention and debt crisis issues related to their illnesses.

Rx Outreach

888-796-1234; rxoutreach.org
Nonprofit, mail-order pharmacy; helps patients save money on medications and carries many cancer drugs.

Social Security Administration

800-772-1213; ssa.gov/applyfordisability
Offers disability payments to those who qualify.

Zichron Shlome Refuah Fund

718-438-9355; zsfr.org, zsfr@thejnet.com
Helps people with cancer with funding for medical expenses, dream fulfillment, wigs, vitamins, living expenses, house-keeping, retreats, transportation, summer camps, plane tickets and insurance.