

What is Available?

- Free and reduced-cost health care is available to people who cannot afford to pay at Hill-Burton obligated facilities. These facilities must post a sign in their Admissions Office, Business Office, and Emergency Room advising people of their free and reduced-cost care obligation. The sign must read, ***“NOTICE—Medical Care for Those Who Cannot Afford to Pay.”***
- Hill-Burton assisted facilities include hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities. You can apply at the facility's Admissions Office or Business Office, before or after care is received and even after bills have been sent for collection.
- Hill-Burton facilities determine which services are provided free of charge or at reduced costs.
- **The program only covers facility costs; it does not cover private physician bills.**
- Hill-Burton facilities must provide a written *Individual Notice* that specifies the types of Hill-Burton free and reduced-cost services available and the income criteria. These services are reflected in the facility's published allocation plan.

Do I Qualify for Free Services?

- To qualify for services, an applicant's income must fall within the annually published Poverty Guidelines of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- If your income is at or below the current Poverty Guidelines, facility services may be free.
- If your income is more than the current Poverty Guidelines, but is less than double (or in the case of nursing homes less than triple), Hill-Burton facilities may provide services at full charge, reduced charge, or free. The *Individual Notice* will tell you what medical services and income levels qualify for free care.

How Do I Apply?

- Contact the Hill-Burton *Hot Line* for a list of obligated facilities.
- Contact the facility's Admissions Office or Business Office. Ask for an application and a copy of the facility's *Individual Notice*.
 - This notice provides information on qualifying income levels, required documentation, where to apply, and the timeframe for the facility to make the eligibility determination.
- The types of documentation that may be required are proof of income to the

facility, such as a pay stub and, if applying for Medicaid, Medicare, or some other medical assistance program, a letter of approval or denial.

- These documents must be submitted within a reasonable time after applying for Hill-Burton services.
- When you return the completed application, ask for a *Determination of Eligibility*. The facility must notify you in writing of its determination of your eligibility for free or reduced-cost services within the timeframes included on the *Individual Notice*.

Can I Be Denied?

The facility may deny your request if:

- Your income is more than the income levels in the *Allocation Plan* and as specified in the *Individual Notice*.
- The facility has given out the required amount of free care as specified in its *Allocation Plan*.
- The services you request or have received are not covered by the facility's *Allocation Plan* as specified in the *Individual Notice*.
- The services you are requesting are fully covered by Medicare, Medicaid, insurance or another medical assistance program.
- You do not provide the documents the facility requires to verify your eligibility, such as a pay stub.

What is the Hill-Burton Free or Reduced-Cost Care Program?

The Hill-Burton Program, passed into law by Congress in 1946, provides funds to hospitals and other health facilities for building and modernization. In return, funded facilities agree to (1) provide a reasonable amount of free or reduced-cost care to people unable to pay, and (2) make services available to all people living in that local area.

Eligibility rules and procedures may vary by facility.

For more information, call the national toll-free hotline:

1-800-638-0742

For Maryland residents:

1-800-492-0359

The number of Hill-Burton facilities is limited, and some States have no facilities. For an updated list, visit

www.hrsa.gov/hillburton/default.htm

The Hill-Burton Community Service Assurance requires that facilities must provide services without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or creed. They also may not discriminate against Medicare and Medicaid patients. For more information, call the Office for Civil Rights toll free at: 1-800-368-1019.

What If I Have a Complaint?

If you believe you have been unfairly denied Hill-Burton free or reduced-cost services, a written complaint may be filed with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint, please state the facts and dates concerning the complaint. If you need assistance, call toll free at 1-800-638-0742 or for Maryland residents, 1-800-492-0359.

Complaints should be sent to:

***Director, Division of Facilities Compliance
and Recovery***

***Health Resources and Services
Administration***

***Healthcare Systems Bureau
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 10-105
Rockville, MD 20857***

Free or Reduced-Cost Health Care

***at
Participating Hospitals,
Nursing Homes, and
Other Health Care
Facilities***

Hill-Burton Program

**U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services
Health Resources and Services
Administration**

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