



Financial Assistance

For persons with cancer

This handout lists services to help cancer patients with financial needs including:

- **Washington State assistance.**
- **Federal assistance.**
- **Veterans' assistance.**
- **Employment concerns.**
- **Help if you are low income or disabled.**

If you have no income, are unable to work for a period of time because of your illness or treatment, and you will need financial assistance or assistance with your medical bills, there are two options. In many cases, you will want to apply for both:

- **Washington State Assistance (DSHS)**
- **Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income (Federal Assistance)**

Washington State Assistance: Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

Local welfare offices are listed in the blue pages of the Seattle telephone book under “Washington State Community Service Offices.” You can get an application form from the UWMC Financial Counseling office on the 3rd floor, near the main entrance. If you are found eligible for public assistance, you will get a monthly check and Medicaid to cover the costs of your medical treatment and medications.

Even if you are not considered low income enough to receive financial assistance, you may still be eligible for partial coverage of your medical expenses. It is important to apply as soon as possible, as it may take a month or more for your application to be processed. A counselor in the UWMC Financial Counseling office can help you with your application or with reapplying as needed. The office number is **206-598-4320**.

- **Washington State Social and Health Services Offices**
Listed in the blue pages of the Seattle telephone book.
Provides public assistance and Medicaid to cover the costs of your medical treatment and medications.

If you have problems receiving DSHS, contact:

- **Welfare Rights Advocacy Program**
206-694-6742
Provides information and assistance in resolving DSHS problems.
- **Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition**
206-324-3063
Provides advocacy for low-income individuals.

Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income (Federal Assistance)

If you are disabled by your illness or treatments, you may be eligible for Social Security Disability (SSD) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which will provide you with income and medical coverage.

Social Security defines “disability” as “physical impairment which prevents you from doing any substantial gainful work...and is expected to last (or has lasted) for at least one year...” If you think you may be eligible for SSD, you can begin your application over the phone. There is a 5-month eligibility waiting period for SSD. SSI, however, is an income-based program and there is no waiting period.

- **Social Security Disability**
800-772-1213
Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Provides information about federal assistance.

Veterans

If you are a veteran, you may also want to explore possible Veterans Administration (VA) disability and pension benefits.

- **Veterans Benefits Administration**
800-827-1000
www.vba.va.gov

Employment Concerns

UWMC Rehabilitation Medicine Department

If you and your doctor feel your illness has limited your ability to work, vocational counselors in the UWMC Rehabilitation Medicine Department are available to assess your needs and options for returning to work. These counselors may also be helpful advocates in working with employers to request extended sick leave and to avoid job termination. If you are interested, ask your doctor for a Rehabilitation referral. Check with your insurance provider to make sure your insurance will cover this service.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

DVR, a state agency, offers employment counseling and training for people with disabilities related to illness or injury who are capable of participating in training or employment. They have local offices in many cities throughout Washington state. In Seattle, their phone numbers are listed in the blue pages of the telephone book under Washington State, Vocational Rehabilitation. The main office number is:

- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**
206-273-7100; toll-free in Washington state: **800-622-1375**
Provides employment counseling and training for individuals with disabilities.

Protection Against Job Discrimination

Under federal law and many state laws, it is illegal for an employer to discriminate against a worker because he or she has cancer. Some protections are offered through the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Federal Rehabilitation Act. The ability to take additional medical leave without risking job loss is provided to workers in many circumstances under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

For more information on these laws, contact the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) or the American Cancer Society (ACS). ACS can send you a brochure, *Americans with Disabilities Act: Protection for Cancer Patients Against Employment Discrimination*, which defines the ADA law by describing employment rights of the cancer patient. This pamphlet is also available in the Cancer Center or the Cancer Center Library.

- **National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS)**
301-650-9127
Publications: 877-622-7937
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST
Provides information about job discrimination laws, insurance issues, and referrals to support organizations.
- **Washington State Insurance Commissioner**
206-464-6263; toll-free in Washington state: **800-562-6900**
Provides consumer information and investigates consumer complaints.
- **American Cancer Society (ACS)**
206-283-1152; toll-free in Washington state: **800-729-1151**
National office: 800-227-2345 (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays)
Provides information about Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **Patient Advocate Foundation**
800-532-5274
Provides help for patients who have experienced employment discrimination or denial of insurance benefits.

Help if You Are Low Income or Disabled

Help with Heating Bills

- **Energy Assistance Program (EAP)** (King County only)
866-223-1068
Federally funded program to help low-income persons with heating bills. For further information, call the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP) at 206-812-4940.

Help with Minor Home Repair

- **Minor Home Repair Program**
206-448-5751; toll-free in Washington state: **800-972-9990**
Non-profit agency offering electrical, plumbing, and carpentry repairs. City homeowners of all ages can qualify for a variety of repairs based on income and family size. Materials are provided at cost. There is a small charge for labor.

Assistance with Telephone Expenses

- **Washington Telephone Assistance Program (DSHS)**

In Washington state: **888-700-8880**

Listed in the blue pages of the Seattle telephone book.

Available for some patients receiving state assistance. It will provide a discount on installation costs and local service costs.

Call your local telephone company for details. You will be asked for your client identification number (ID#), social security number, and date of birth.

Low-Cost Bus Pass

- **Metro-Regional Reduced Fare Permit**

206-553-3060

This permit entitles you to discount fares on 8 transportation systems in the Puget Sound region. You are eligible if you are 65 or older, or if you are certified by your doctor as disabled by your cancer or your cancer treatment. Apply at Metro or at your local transportation agency.

Debt Management

- **Clearpoint Financial Solutions**

253-813-0510; toll-free in Washington state: **800-634-2227**

Helps people in financial trouble solve debt problems. Clients must have some financial resources.

Guardianship Services

Guardianship services are corporations providing professional guardianship services to adults who need help managing their affairs.

- **Lifetime Advocacy Plus**

206-367-8055

- **Washington Protection & Advocacy System** (referrals only)

206-324-1521; toll-free in Washington state: **800-562-2702**

- **Northwest Guardianship Services**

206-292-9031; 24-hour pager: **206-969-3039**

Legal Help for People with Low Incomes

- **Catholic Community Services Legal Action Center**
206-324-6890
Landlord/Tenant; Debtor/Creditor; Consumer Protection
- **Eastside Legal Assistance Program**
425-747-7274
Multilingual Clinic (Russian, Spanish, Ukranian)
425-747-1663
Hours: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday
- **Family Law Facilitators**
206-296-9092
- **Lawyer Referral and Information Service**
206-623-2551
- **Neighborhood Legal Clinic**
206-340-2593
- **NW Immigrant Rights Project**
206-587-4009
- **NW Justice Project (non-criminal)**
888-201-1014
Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Northwest Women’s Law Center Referral & Information Service**
206-621-7691
- **Self-Help PLUS Project, Family Law Program**
206-624-4772

Emergency Housing

If you are homeless, the Community Information Line or the Crisis Line (listed below) can give you information about local shelters and food resources.

If you are a Veteran and homeless, phone:

- **King County Veterans Program**
206-296-7656
Provides information and referral to local Veterans Services.
- **Veterans Affairs, Homeless Program**
206-764-2007
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Provides information on housing, health and mental health care and other assistance.

Other Help If You Are Low Income or Disabled

- **Community Information Line**
206-461-3200 or **2-1-1** (King County calls only; 2-1-1 cannot be dialed using a cell phone)
Toll-free in Washington state: **800-621-4636**
TDD: 206-461-3610
Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week
Offers information on general resources.
- **Crisis Clinic Crisis Line**
206-461-3222 or **2-1-1** (King County calls only; 2-1-1 cannot be dialed using a cell phone)
Toll-free in Washington state: **800-244-5767**
TDD: 206-461-3219
Hours: 24 hours a day
Provides crisis counseling and phone numbers for resources to meet various needs.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call us if you have questions or concerns.

Social Work and Care Coordination:
206-598-4370

Emergency Financial Assistance

Your social worker can help you identify resources for emergency help. The Cancer Center social worker can be reached at 206-598-4108. For your inpatient social worker, call Social Work and Care Coordination at 206-598-4370.

These agencies may be able to help with financial assistance for bills or rent.

- **Salvation Army**
General Office: 206-783-1225
White Center: 206-767-3150
(For zip codes: 98106, 08, 16, 36, 46, 48, 58, 66, 68, 88, 98)
Seattle Temple: 206-783-1225
(For zip codes: 98103, 05, 07, 17, 25, 33, 55, 77)
Everett: 206-259-8129
(For zip codes: 98201, 03, 04, 06, 75)
Central: 206-447-9944
(For zip codes: 98101, 02, 04, 08, 09, 12, 18, 19, 21, 22, 44, 99)
Renton: 425-255-5969
(For zip codes: 98055, 56, 57, 58; 98178)
East King County: 425-452-7300
(For zip codes: 98004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 010, 019, 027, 033, 040, 045, 052, 053, 065, 072)
Federal Way and Des Moines: 253-946-7933
(For zip codes: 98003, 023, 001*, 198*, 032*)
** within the Federal Way School District*
- **St. Vincent de Paul**
206-767-6449, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **CAMP (Central Area Motivation Program)**
206-812-4940

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER
UW Medicine

**Social Work and Care Coordination
– Cancer Programs**

Box 356125
1959 N.E. Pacific St. Seattle, WA 98195
206-598-4370

A member of the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, which includes Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, and the University of Washington.