

Hospital Financial Assistance for Uninsured in Illinois



Per Illinois state law, all public hospitals in Illinois are required to offer financial assistance to uninsured individuals who meet certain income requirements. Nonprofit hospitals are tax-exempt organizations and do not pay property taxes to the government. In exchange for tax-exempt status, public hospitals must provide financial assistance to any qualified individual who applies. This program is also known as Charity Care.

If you are an uninsured, low-income, and live in Illinois, you have a right to apply for hospital financial assistance regardless of your immigration status. You can apply for financial assistance for free or discounted care based on family size and income. Hospital financial assistance programs may apply only to the hospital charges. The use of this program does not count toward public charge.

Eligibility for Hospital Financial Assistance:

You may qualify if you meet the following criteria:

- (1) You live in Illinois
- (2) You are uninsured
- (3) Your income is 200% or less of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)*
*Example: In 2022, monthly income of \$1,526 or less for a family of 2. *Some hospitals may have higher income thresholds.*
- (4) You have received a service that costs more than \$150.

Required Documents:

You must submit one of the following documents along with the hospital financial assistance application.

- (1) Identification
- (2) Proof that you live in Illinois
- (3) Proof of income
- (4) Assets (excluding your primary vehicle and home) (if applicable)

A social security number is NOT required to apply. Do not use any false information on the application.



ICIRR ILLINOIS COALITION
FOR IMMIGRANT AND
REFUGEE RIGHTS

Hospital Financial Assistance for Uninsured in Illinois

How to Apply:

- Hospitals are legally required to have their application accessible. You can usually find information on the medical bill, hospital website, discharge paperwork, or brochure.
- If the hospital failed to give you the application, you can request the hospital financial assistance application. Fill it out and return it along with the required documents. The hospital cannot send you to collections without giving you a response to your application.
- **You must apply for hospital financial assistance within 90 days of the date of discharge or the date you receive your first medical bill.**
- Before applying, the hospital may ask you about your eligibility for other health insurance programs (for example, Medicaid expansions or All Kids). They are obligated to make sure you are not eligible for other types of insurance.

You have a right to access this program regardless of your immigration status!

The use of this program does not count toward public charge and will not affect your immigration status.

As of January 1, 2022, if you receive care at a free or community clinic, the clinic can refer you to receive speciality services at a nearby hospital and assist you with the charity care application at the time they make your appointment.



GET CONNECTED!

- ① If you need help applying for hospital financial assistance or if you have been wrongfully denied hospital financial assistance, call ICIRR's Family Support Network: (855) 435-7693, follow the prompts and press 5 for healthcare.
- ② To find immigrant health resources, visit: www.icirr.org/healthcare-access.