

New Illinois Hospital Screening Law



Effective July 1, 2024, all hospitals in Illinois must screen uninsured patients for hospital financial assistance (also known as charity care) and health coverage options *before* sending them a bill. Insured patients may request to be screened as well.

Uninsured patients will be screened at the earliest reasonable moment. Patients who are found eligible for hospital financial assistance will be assisted by hospital staff with the application process.

To be eligible* for hospital financial assistance uninsured patients must:

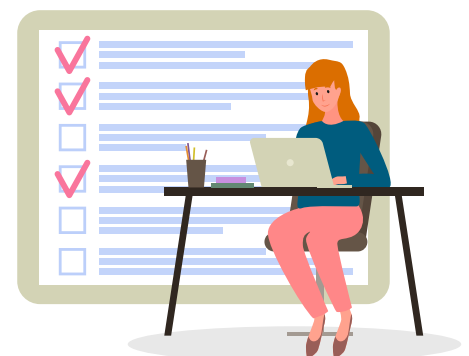
- Live in Illinois
- Have an income level of 200% FPL or lower (some hospitals may have higher income thresholds)

**Social security number is not required. People with a tourist visa are generally not considered to "live in Illinois" and are ineligible.*

Patients found eligible for other programs such as Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will be referred to a community organization that can provide free and unbiased eligibility and enrollment assistance.

Patient Responsibility

- Must complete the hospital's application within 90 days of the date you get the medical services or the date you are discharged from the hospital (whichever is later).
- Provide proof of:
 - Income
 - Address
 - Identification



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Patient Rights

- You have a right to be screened and to get hospital financial assistance regardless of your immigration status!
- The hospital must conduct the screening and follow-up process including written notifications in your preferred language.
- The hospital cannot send you to collections without giving you a proper screening and notifying you of the results.
- The use of this program does not count toward public charge and will not affect your immigration status.
- You have the right to file a complaint if a hospital fails to comply with the new law.

If you feel the hospital has not respected your healthcare rights, you have the right to submit an official complaint against the hospital.

You can:

- File a complaint with the Illinois Attorney General's office. Call the Civil Rights Hotline at 1-877-581-3692 OR civilrights@ilag.gov.
- Connect with a community organization for support. You can always call ICIRR's Family Support Network (details below).

Get Connected!

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](tel:8554357693), follow the prompts and press 5 for healthcare.

Bills are intimidating, but don't delay in applying for and following up financial assistance because there is a time limit to this process.

To find immigrant health resources, visit: icirr.org/healthcare-access.