



# ASSISTANCE CATEGORIES IN THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

## Goal

To help users of the National Financial Resource Directory understand the types of assistance programs that can be found within each assistance category.

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## Introduction

The National Financial Resource Directory identifies external organizations and programs that help people with chronic conditions or illnesses as well as those who need access to care.

Featured resources may be national, state, or local and may include charitable organizations, government programs, non-profits, volunteer organizations, community programs, clinics and medical facilities who offer discounted services or specialized programs, and online self-guided resources. Resources are matched based on the assistance type offered, and therefore can display under multiple assistance types.

The Patient Advocate Foundation has no direct relationship with these resources or influence over eligibility criteria, selection processes, fund availability, or program details. PAF cannot promise or guarantee any level of support. For any questions relating to individual resources, please contact the resource itself.

## Getting Started

Assistance Type is one of the options you must choose during your initial search. At this step, you can choose from five main categories, then select more specific types of assistance after generating your results. This document is designed to help you understand options, the filters that display within each main category, as well as examples of the types of resources found within each filter category. The examples are not all-inclusive but should provide guidance in understanding the type of programs found in each.

## Main Assistance Categories

- Discounted and Free Medical Services
- Education and Resource Navigation
- Emotional and Support Programs
- Living Expenses
- Medical and Prescription Costs

## Discounted and Free Medical Services

### Affordable Options for Care

Programs to help people access healthcare services for free or at a discount.

- Community events offering free or discounted medical services
- Financial assistance programs for medical bills through specific provider networks
- Free or sliding scale clinics

## Clinical Trials

Programs that offer guidance or navigation services for people interested in clinical trials.

- Clinical trials listings
- In-person (or by telephone) navigation help to find potential clinical trials
- Self-guided clinical trial search tools

## Dental Care

Programs that help with the cost of dental services and supplies as well as facilities that offer free or discounted dental or orthodontic services.

- Discounted dental services
- Discounted dental supplies (dentures, braces, retainers, etc.)
- Financial assistance for dental needs
- Free dental clinics
- Traveling dental service vans

## Fertility-Related Services

Programs that offer free/discounted services or financial grants to people seeking help with fertility-related needs.

- Discounted fertility services
- Financial grants for those diagnosed with infertility
- Financing programs for fertility needs
- Free or financial assistance with fertility-related medications
- Free or financial assistance with fertility preservation services

## Genetic and Genomic Testing

Programs that provide services, education, or financial assistance for genetic and genomic tests.

- Educational information about genetic and genomic tests
- Financial grants to obtain genetic or genomic tests
- Facilities offering discounted services for genetic or genomic tests

## Hearing Services

Programs that provide hearing services and/or hearing equipment free or at a discount.

- Discounted hearing services
- Financial grants to obtain hearing equipment
- Discounted hearing equipment

## Home Health Care

Physician directed medical care provided in the home.

- Navigator assistance accessing home health care services
- Home health providers that also offer other benefits or donated services

### Reconstructive Surgery

A type of plastic surgery performed to correct abnormalities caused by disease, birth defects or injury.

- Discounted services
- Financial grants to help with reconstructive surgery costs
- Donated services or supplies for individuals who have had some type of reconstructive surgery

### Screening Services

Services performed as preventive measures or done to detect a condition or disease.

- Discounted and/or free screening services
- Financial grants to obtain screening services
- Navigators that help locate local screening services
- Travel buses or networks that offer local free events

### Vision Care

Services and equipment related to vision care.

- Discounted and/or free vision care services
- Financial grants to obtain vision equipment
- Donated vision equipment

## Education and Resource Navigation

### Academic Scholarships

Programs that offer academic financial aid to individuals and survivors of a disease or disability.

- Adults
- Caregivers
- Children
- Family members of persons with a chronic illness

### Credit or Financial Management

Programs that offer credit and/or financial management classes and services.

- Credit and money management classes
- Financial education classes
- Tax preparation assistance

## Disease Information

Disease information and education offered through expert organizations.

- Disease education
- Treatment information

## Employment Related Services

Programs that provide employment training services or assistance with employment-related issues.

- Job search assistance
- Job training services
- Navigators who help with employment rights
- Education on ADA, EEOC, and other employment related laws

## Legal Services

Programs that offer pro-bono (free) legal services or provide guidance in legal manners.

- Advocates that help individuals get connected to appropriate legal services
- Free advice on legal matters
- Free or discounted legal services

## Resource Connection

Programs that offer free services to connect various populations with community resources they need.

- Assistance with basic needs resources (food, financial, transportation, etc.)
- Assistance with advocate connection
- Assistance with state and federal insurance programs & access to care
- Assistance with insurance products and coordination of services
- Online resource databases for self-guided access to resources

## Emotional and Support Programs

### End-of-Life and Funeral Costs

Programs that offer services or financial assistance for hospice or end of life care needs.

- Funeral costs
- Services to support patients and loved ones in the last stage of life

### Fundraising Programs

Programs to help individuals raise money or coordinate needs related to a diagnosis.

- Crowdfunding online

- Community programs that offer guidance or help with fundraisers
- Resources designed to help friends and family coordinate help (meals, transportation, housecleaning, etc.)

### Integrative and Wellness Care

Programs that offer services to complement treatment, promote wellness, or provide relaxation techniques.

- Acupuncture
- Exercise classes
- Massages
- Reflexology
- Yoga

### Support for Caregivers

Programs that offer free emotional or other support services to caregivers.

- Adult day care coordination
- General resources specific to caregivers
- In-person, online, or telephone support groups
- One-on-one counseling or peer-to-peer support groups
- Respite services or benefits

### Support Groups

Programs that offer free emotional support services to patients with chronic or debilitating disease.

- In-person groups
- One-on-one counseling
- Online groups
- Peer-to-peer groups
- Telephone groups

### Wish Fulfillment

Programs that provide opportunities of retreats, gifts, or wishes to individuals with chronic or life-threatening illness.

- Day and sleepaway camps
- Gifts
- Parties/Celebrations
- Retreats
- Wish granting organizations



## Living Expenses

### Childcare

Programs that provide childcare services or financial assistance towards cost of childcare for adults living with chronic or debilitating disease.

- Childcare services
- Coordination services for childcare
- Financial assistance for cost of childcare

### Financial Assistance Support

Programs that provide general financial assistance. These programs don't outline specific designation in their guidelines as to how the money can be used or they may require the applicant to indicate what they need financial assistance for.

- Unspecified grants for cost-of-living support
- Unspecified financial grants
- Unspecified grants for cost of medical support
- Special request grants (applicant requests money for whatever need they have)

### Food and Nutrition

Programs that provide food assistance options, financial help for food costs, nutrition counseling, or liquid nutrition help.

- Financial grants for food costs
- Food Banks
- Government food benefits
- Liquid Nutrition (nutrition shakes, enteral formula)
- Meal delivery services
- Nutrition counseling
- Supper halls

### Housekeeping and Home Modifications

Programs that offer free services or financial assistance for housekeeping, minor home repairs or home modification services.

- Government-sponsored programs (heating and air, roof repairs, etc.)
- House cleaning services
- Home modification services (building ramps, stair rails, minor repairs)
- Yard care services

## Housing and Medical Lodging

Programs that offer housing options or financial assistance for housing expenses as well as medical lodging options directly related to treatment.

- Day shelters
- Financial assistance for lodging during treatment
- Financial assistance for rent/mortgage
- Government housing services
- Homeless Shelters
- Lodging options for treatment related needs

## Transportation

Programs that offer ride assistance, help with transportation related costs, or discounted public transportation services.

- Airfare cost or service
- Car insurance
- Car payment
- Car repairs
- Community transportation services
- Gas expenses
- Government benefits for transportation
- Parking fees and tolls

## Utilities

Programs that offer utility discounts, heating and cooling programs, or financial assistance for utility-related costs.

- Government utility assistance programs
- Heating and cooling grants
- Gas grants
- Electric grants
- Telephone grants
- Water grants

## Medical and Prescription Costs

### Charitable Copayment Assistance

Programs that offer financial assistance to help with insurance copayment and/or deductible costs.

- Copayment assistance for medical services
- Copayment assistance for medications
- Deductible and coinsurance costs

- General (unspecified) copayment assistance

### Drug Manufacturer Patient Programs

Savings programs provided through the manufacturer of medications so patients can access their prescribed prescriptions for free or at a discount.

- Copayment assistance programs
- Patient assistance programs (free medications)
- Navigator assistance to help access prescribed medications

### Insurance Policy Options

Programs that offer insurance navigation or screening services to identify potential insurance options.

- Navigator assistance to help identify insurance options
- State or government insurance options and programs
- Self-screening databases to identify insurance options

### Insurance Premium Assistance

Programs that offer financial assistance to help with insurance premiums or COBRA costs.

- COBRA direct pay or reimbursement assistance
- Premium direct pay or reimbursement assistance

### Medical Bills

Programs that offer financial assistance for medical bills to insured and uninsured individuals. These programs can be for specific medical services or general medical bill assistance.

- Specified medical bill financial assistance
- Unspecified medical bill financial assistance

### Medical Equipment or Supplies

Programs that offer free or discounted medical equipment or supplies.

- Assistive technology
- Diabetic testing supplies
- Durable medical equipment
- Disposable supplies (ostomy, bandages, needles, tubes, etc.)
- Mobility equipment (wheelchairs, canes, walkers, etc.)
- Hairpieces/wigs
- Prosthesis

### Medication Cost

Programs that offer free or discounted medications and/or financial assistance to obtain medications regardless of insurance status.

- Cost finder databases to identify cheapest options for a drug
- Community based programs for drug assistance
- Drug discount cards
- Financial assistance to help with medication costs (not specific to insurance status)
- Financial assistance for over-the-counter medications
- Pharmacy specific drug programs