

Support Service Fund: 2012 Application & Guidelines for Financial Assistance
Maine Breast Cancer Coalition
www.mainebreastcancer.org
phone/fax 1-800-928-2644

Application Valid until 12/31/12---after that date download or request a current application.

The **Maine Breast Cancer Coalition** (MBCC) is a non-profit, grassroots, volunteer-based organization established in 1992. MBCC is dedicated to making a positive difference in the health of Maine people through financial support for underserved people with breast health or breast cancer needs, advocacy for breast cancer research and legislation, and education to promote knowledge about breast cancer and quality care. ***The Support Service Fund is an assistance program that provides Maine residents in need with financial help for breast health or breast cancer related services or items.***

The Support Service Fund is sponsored in part by grants from the Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, the Maine Cancer Foundation, the Borman Family Foundation, the Maine Breast Cancer Specialty License Plate Program; also dedicated fundraisers by organizations and businesses including the York Hospital Breast Cancer Support Group, the Greater Bangor Women's Ski/Snowboard Club, the Fraternal Order of Eagles Pink Sock Foundation, Maine Fraternal Order of Eagles Groups, PATCO Construction, St. Joseph Hospital (in-kind donations of printing), and individual contributions by members and supporters of MBCC.

To Qualify:

- There are no income level requirements but **you must indicate a financial need not able to be met by other available resources.** (See pages 4 and 5 for a list of resources.)
- Requests must be related to breast health or breast cancer.
- You must be a Maine resident.
- Medical bills must not be more than 12 months old.
- Bills for services/items previously submitted are not eligible for reconsideration.
- You must not have exceeded the per-person assistance limit set by the MBCC.

To Apply: Please apply before receiving services whenever possible.

- **Please read all 5 pages of this financial assistance application.**
- Complete all items on the confidential financial assistance application on pages 2-3. Attach the following:
- Attach a copy of the order or prescription from your healthcare provider.
- Attach a copy of the bill or estimate of the charges from the supplier of the service(s) or item(s). **Bills must be itemized.**
- Mail or fax all applications with supporting information to the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition.

The Support Service Fund Committee will review all applications.

- Only complete applications with attached supporting information will be considered by the Committee.
- Applicants will be notified in writing of the Committee's decision, usually within 7 business days.
- If approved, all invoices must be received within 90 days of the date of your notification letter to remain eligible for payment.

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition
499 Broadway, PMB 362
Bangor, ME 04401-3460

Phone/Fax 1-800-928-2644

Support Service Fund 2012 Application for Financial Assistance

Maine Breast Cancer Coalition

(Application Valid until 12/31/12---after that date download a current application at www.mainebreastcancer.org or request an application by calling our toll free number at 1-800-928-2644, email ssf.mbcc@myfairpoint.net)

All items on pages 2 and 3 must be completed. Please print clearly.

See page 1 for guidelines. Please call 1-800-928-2644 or email ssf.mbcc@myfairpoint.net if you need help to complete.

Name: _____ date of birth: _____ age: _____ gender: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____, ME Zip _____ County _____

Phone: Day _____ Eve. _____ Email _____

1. ___ Service(s) or item(s) requested: _____

2. ___ Cost of service(s) or item(s): _____

3. ___ For pre-approval of a medical service you have not yet received, enclose a copy of the order or prescription from your healthcare provider and an estimate of cost.

and/or

4. ___ For services or items already completed or received, enclose a copy of the bill. **(must be itemized)**

5. Yes ___ No ___ Have you applied for the Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program?
If so, do you qualify? Yes ___ No ___ (Please see attached *Breast Health/Breast Cancer/General Resources* list, page 4, and call 1-800-350-5180 or TTY 287-8015 to inquire about eligibility.)

6. Yes ___ No ___ Do you qualify for MaineCare (formerly called Medicaid)? Please see the attached *Breast Health/Breast Cancer/General Resources* list on page 5 for contact information.

7. Yes ___ No ___ Are these services or items covered by your insurance, Medicare, hospital free care/discount programs or State/City/Town programs? Please see the attached *Breast Health/Breast Cancer/General Resources* list on pages 4-5.

If partially covered, please explain. _____

8. How did you learn about the *Support Service Fund*? _____

If you were referred by a patient navigator, social worker, or other health care professional:

Name of person who made the referral _____

Where the above person is employed _____

Contact number for referrer (if available) _____

Do you give the committee permission to discuss your application with this person? Yes ___ No ___

9. Explain why you require financial assistance. _____

10. Have you applied to the *Support Service Fund* in the past? Yes ___ No ___ Year (s) _____

11. Have you been diagnosed with breast cancer? Yes ___ No ___ Year(s) diagnosed _____

12. Are you: ___ White/Caucasian ___ Hispanic/Latina ___ Black/African American
___ American Indian ___ Asian or Pacific Islander ___ Other: Specify _____

13. We are sometimes asked by the media for personal stories from the people we have helped. Would you be willing to share how the fund has helped you? Yes ___ No ___

I understand that the Support Service Fund is available only if I have a financial need not able to be met by other resources. I certify that I do not qualify for financial assistance from other sources as listed on the provided Breast Health/ Breast Cancer/ General Resources list on application pages 4 and 5.

14. Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail or fax completed pages 2 and 3 with supporting attachments to the address below.

Keep pages 1, 4, and 5 for review and use as needed. DO NOT send them with your application.

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Maine Breast Cancer Coalition
499 Broadway, PMB 362
Bangor, ME 04401-3460**

Phone and Fax 1-800-928-2644

Breast Health/Breast Cancer/General Resources

Please see page 5 for *county-based resources* and *travel/lodging assistance resources*.

2-1-1 Maine is a comprehensive statewide directory of over 8,000 health and human services available in Maine. The toll free 2-1-1 hotline connects callers to trained call specialists who can help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Finding the answers to health and human services questions and locating resources is as quick and easy as dialing 2-1-1 or visiting www.211maine.org.

CancerCare Co-Payment Assistance Foundation (not to be confused with CancerCare of Maine) is a non-profit organization that helps people being treated for cancer pay for the *insurance co-payments* on the prescription medicines they need. Breast cancer is one of the cancers covered by this program. To find out if you are eligible, call 1-866-55-copay (1-866-552-6729) or go to <http://www.cancercopay.org>.

Cancer Support Center of Maine: 207-469-6363 <http://www.cancersupportcenterofmaine.org>
The Cancer Support Center of Maine provides free services to cancer patients & survivors in Maine through outreach, education, advocacy, and social support. Their goal is to help people navigate the often complex and confusing bureaucracy of health management in a time of crisis with an emphasis on free or reduced cost programs.

Caring Connections Programs, Bangor: 941-2808 http://bangorymca.org/content/4029/Caring_Connections

1: Caring Connections offers breast cancer support groups, and no-cost breast and cervical screenings for women age 40-64 through the Maine Breast & Cervical Health Program.

2: Bridging the Gap is a grant-funded program of the Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. It provides breast exams and imaging for qualifying women age 20-39 (20-29 with symptoms and 30 – 39 either with symptoms or a family history of breast cancer).

3: Bridging Books is a grant-funded program of the Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. Bridging Books, through the patient's surgeon, provides a comprehensive book and other resource materials to women newly diagnosed with Breast Cancer. If you are recently diagnosed and would like additional reading/resource information regarding breast cancer, call Caring Connections and request a Bridging Books packet.

General Assistance: Call your town office. Each town offers general assistance, when no other resources are available, to help people in emergencies. Household size, income and expenses are considered. Nothing will be covered without prior approval; residents must contact the town office before incurring medical bills.

Heating Assistance: (Also see *Washington Hancock Community Agency on the next page.*)

Contact the **Community Action Program (CAP)** office nearest you. Local listings can be found at www.mainehousing.org/Charts/cap-agencies?PageCMD=3 or call the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at (207) 626-4603.

Citizen's Energy: Fuel oil assistance <http://www.citizensenergy.com/main/Home.html> 1-877-Joe-4-oil

Hospitals: Call your local hospital. Hospitals in Maine offer **reduced or no-cost** care to those who qualify. Call the hospital's billing office to apply for Free or Reduced Cost Care. Also, call the social service department to see if there are other resources available at the hospital.

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center: Located in Bangor. 947-5337

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center offers annual exams, breast health and menopause education, and support to all Maine women, especially those who are of limited income, lesbian and/or women with disabilities.

Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®: Additional resources may be available through programs funded by grants from the Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. Call 262-7117 or visit www.komenmaine.org/grants/current-grant-recipients/ for a list of current resources.

Maine Breast & Cervical Health Program: 1-800-350-5180, press 1; If hearing impaired: TTY 1/800-438-5514
Offers no-cost mammograms and Pap tests to women age 40 or older who qualify. Women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer who qualify for MBCHP may also be eligible for free medical care through the Treatment Act.

MaineCare: 1-800-321-5557 Provides health insurance to people meeting income and asset restriction guidelines.

MaineHealth Learning Resource Center of Scarborough, Maine offers a helpful website for anyone affected by cancer. <http://mainehealthcancer.org/Pages/default.aspx>

MedAccess: 1-877-275-1787 Provides help with paying for prescription medications.

Medicare: 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oes/resource/medicare.htm#>
Medicare is health insurance for people age 65 or older and under age 65 with certain disabilities.

Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation: <http://www.PANFoundation.org> 866-316-PANF (7263).
Provides *co-payment assistance* to underinsured patients with chronic diseases, including breast cancer. Qualified patients will be granted up to \$7,500 per year to cover out-of-pocket expenses associated with their treatment. Patients can apply for assistance online or by calling the toll-free number.

Patient Advocate Foundation 1-800-532-5274 or www.patientadvocate.org A national non-profit organization that provides professional case management services to Americans with chronic, life-threatening, and debilitating illnesses. PAF case managers serve as active liaisons for you and your insurers, employers, or creditors to resolve insurance, job retention, and debt crisis matters as they relate to your diagnosis.

Penquis Women's Health Services: 1-800-941-2836 Health clinics offer sliding scale fees for people who qualify.

County-based resources: *(also see Ride to Wellness Program below)*

CarePartners: 1-877-626-1684 www.mmc.org/mh_body.cfm?id=3441
Coordinates the provision of donated healthcare services for low-income, uninsured residents in four Maine counties (**Cumberland, Lincoln, Waldo and Kennebec**). The program, a partnership between MaineHealth, physicians, hospitals, and other healthcare providers, helps community members who don't qualify for public or private healthcare coverage programs get comprehensive, medically necessary healthcare.

Beth C. Wright Cancer Resource Center: Ellsworth, Maine 207-664-0339 www.bethwrightcancercenter.org
The Beth C. Wright Cancer Center serves people in **Hancock and Washington Counties** who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Washington Hancock Community Agency: (207) 664-2424 www.whcacap.org
A community action agency dedicated to fighting poverty and helping low-income people in Down East Maine. They offer a wide range of services including heating assistance, transportation, weatherization, and more.

Travel and lodging assistance for people in treatment:

Road to Recovery: free transportation to treatments (through American Cancer Society 1-800-227-2345)

Ride to Wellness: You are automatically eligible if you live in either **Penobscot or Piscataquis counties**, have been diagnosed with breast cancer, and need help with transportation to medical treatment. Transportation covered includes travel to: chemo, radiation, support groups, fitting for a prosthetic, lymphedema massage, psycho/social services, exercise programs, and more. Volunteer drivers can pick up individuals at their homes and bring them to treatment or, if you have your own transportation, the program will provide mileage reimbursement to the patient or friends or family who transport. Call The Lynx at 973-3695 or 1-866-853-5969.

Angel Flight Northeast: 1-800-549-9980 or www.angelflightne.org arranges free flights to those requiring access to medical care.

Arbor House: Located **near Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston**, Arbor House provides lodging for patients and their families. For more information about the Arbor House, call 207-795-2398.

Hope Lodge, Boston, MA offers a free place to stay for patients who travel to Boston for treatments (through American Cancer Society 1-800-227-2345)
www.cancer.org/Treatment/SupportProgramsServices/HopeLodge/Boston/boston-about-our-facility