

11

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL INFORMATION



The many responsibilities of caring for a child who has cancer often leads to job conflicts for the caregiver. Work is a financial necessity and a major source of personal satisfaction; nonetheless, many people who care for a child with cancer find that it is difficult to balance the dual responsibilities of caring for a child with cancer and working.

Balancing Work. Each person's working conditions are different. Talk to your supervisor and look in the employee handbook or other human resources publications to learn about your company's policy on caregivers.

- Go to your human resources or personnel department and ask for information about the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Have a copy sent to your supervisor as well, if appropriate. Read more about **FMLA in Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for Caregivers**, below.
- Take advantage of flex-time policies. Consider asking for a flexible schedule if a formal policy is not in place.
- Offer to work a less desirable shift or be willing to make up time taken for caregiving by working days or shifts when most people want to be off. Flexibility on your part shows your employer that you are committed to the company and your job.
- Consider job sharing or working part time, if possible.
- Try not to mix work and caregiving responsibilities. If you need to make phone calls or search the internet for information related to your child's needs, do it on a lunch break.
- Manage your time well. When you need to take time off for caregiving, set priorities and accomplish the most important things first. Delegate responsibilities when you can. Pace yourself; don't do so much in one area that you can't be effective in another.
- Get all the support you can from family members, friends and community resources.
- It's a personal choice whether or not to disclose information about a medical situation to your employer. People have the right to keep the information to themselves. In some instances, disclosing some information about a medical condition is necessary, but you don't have to disclose everything or even a specific diagnosis. Visit <https://trriagecancer.org/QuickGuide-Disclosure> for more information.

You may find that the people you work with treat you differently because you are spending less time at work. You can tell your coworkers either as little or as much as you want to about your situation. In most cases, your coworkers will probably be understanding. Most people either know someone or have a loved one who has been in a similar situation. However, do not feel obligated to share details, except with your supervisor. Be sure to thank people at work for their consideration and assistance.

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for Caregivers. In order to care for your child, it may become necessary for you to take leave from work. There are laws in place to help protect caregivers in these types of situations.

What is FMLA? Eligible employees (who have worked at least 1,250 hours over the last 12 months for private companies with 50 or more employees) can take unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons under the provisions of FMLA. Employees would continue to receive their group health insurance coverage under the same terms and conditions as if they had not taken leave.

Eligible employees are entitled to:

- Twelve workweeks of leave within a 12-month period to care for the employee's
 - Own serious health condition, if it prevents the employee from performing the essential functions of the job
 - Spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition
- Twenty-six workweeks of leave within a 12-month period to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness if the eligible employee is the service member's spouse, child, parent or next of kin (military caregiver leave)

Note: As of February 2015, the United States Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division announced a Final Rule to revise the definition of "spouse" under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993. The Final Rule amends the definition of spouse so that eligible employees in a legal same-sex marriage will be able to take FMLA leave to care for their spouse or family member, regardless of where they live.

There are three kinds of FMLA leave. They are:

- Continuous FMLA leave: An employee is absent for more than 3 consecutive business days and has been treated by a doctor.
- Intermittent FMLA leave: An employee is taking time off in shorter blocks of time due to a serious health condition that qualifies under FMLA provisions. Intermittent leave can be in hourly, daily or weekly increments. Intermittent FMLA leave is often taken when an employee needs ongoing treatment or must go to follow-up appointments for their condition.
- Reduced-schedule FMLA leave: An employee needs to reduce the number of hours they work per day or per week, often to care for a family member or to reduce fatigue or stress.

TIP:

To access more information about this program, please visit the Department of Labor website at www.dol.gov/whd/fmla or call **(866) 487-9243**.



Contact an LLS Information Specialist at **(800) 955-4572** for more information about FMLA and for a referral to appropriate organizations for additional assistance.



For more information about cancer and finances, visit www.LLS.org/booklets to view ***Cancer and Your Finances***.

Managing Health Insurance. Health insurance helps pay for costly medical treatment and can protect families from financial hardship. There are different types of private and public health insurance programs (See ***Types of Health Insurance Plans*** on page 4).

Private health insurance coverage can come from:

- An employer
- A union
- Another association
- An individual policy that has been purchased from an insurance company

Government-funded health insurance programs include:

- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Other government programs

Names of these programs may differ by state.

When people have private health insurance coverage, their children are often enrolled as dependents on a family insurance plan (one that is held by a parent). For example, you or your spouse may have a family insurance policy through an employer that covers both of you and your children. Adding a dependent to a parent's plan is often a less expensive option than purchasing a separate plan for a child. If both parents have separate insurance plans, a child can be insured under both plans. Benefits from one plan will be used first and the secondary plan may cover any remaining costs.

Children from low-income households may be eligible for government-funded health insurance.

Know the Policy's Coverage. You need to know exactly what medical treatment and services are covered by your child's insurance, how to protect your child's benefits, what resources are available to deal with gaps in insurance coverage, and what out-of-pocket expenses there will be. Even after treatment ends, it is important that you maintain your child's health insurance coverage to cover the costs of follow-up care. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) allows children to stay on their parent's health insurance policy until they are 26 years old. Note: If your child is a legal adult, even if they are covered under your insurance policy, the insurance provider may require that your young adult give approval before the insurance provider will discuss your child's medical claims with you.

Tips for Navigating Health Insurance

- Be proactive and be informed. Pay premiums on time and in full to avoid either a lapse in coverage or cancellation of coverage. Check the provisions of your family's health insurance policies to determine what services and medications are covered.
- Request a case manager from the insurance company. The case manager will be your contact person and will be able to answer questions about claims or the policy. When many medical treatments are necessary, it can be useful to have a designated person to speak to at the insurance company. If the policy is part of a work-related benefits package, ask your employers' benefits' advisor for help when you need to communicate with the insurance company.
- Create a filing system that works for you so that you can find information quickly and easily. Keep a copy of all claims and related paperwork in an organized folder, by category. Letters of medical necessity, bills, receipts, requests for sick leave, etc. should be stored in this folder. Also, keep a written record of any phone conversations with insurance company representatives; be sure to include the name of the person you were speaking to, what was said and the date.
- Keep track of all unreimbursed medical expenses. Include the dates of each service, the amount paid and the name of the medical provider. It may be possible to claim these expenses for tax purposes.



Use **Worksheet 16: Insurance Call Log** to keep a record of communications with the insurance company.

Understanding Terms and Expenses. Read the health insurance policy carefully and make sure that you understand the health and medical services that are covered. Review the formulary (the insurance company's list of covered drugs) and check the drug coverage. Familiarize yourself with the following general health insurance terms:

- **Premiums.** The monthly cost of participating in the plan
- **Deductible.** A fixed amount of money that must be "met" or paid out-of-pocket by a patient each year before the insurance plan will cover medical expenses
- **Co-payments/Co-pays.** A set dollar amount that is paid by the patient at the time of service for certain medical services and prescription drugs. Co-pays generally do not count toward the deductible. The co-pay amount may vary, depending on whether the patient is seeing a specialist or a primary care provider (PCP).
- **Co-insurance/Cost Share.** Certain percentages of medical expenses shared by the patient and the health plan. This cost is in addition to any deductibles and co-payments. For example, if Patty has an 80/20 plan, the insurer pays 80 percent of covered expenses and Patty pays the remaining 20 percent of the medical or prescription drug charges.

- **Out-of-Pocket Expenses.** The total amount of medical expenses that the patient is responsible for paying
- **Out-of-Pocket Maximum.** The limit on the total amount a health insurance company requires a patient to pay in deductible and co-insurance per year. After reaching an out-of-pocket maximum, the patient no longer pays co-insurance because the plan begins to pay 100 percent of covered medical expenses. Members are still responsible for services that are not covered by the plan. They must also continue to pay the monthly premiums.
- **In-Network Provider.** A provider that is contracted with an individual's health insurance company to provide services to plan members at a predetermined rate. The amount paid for an in-network provider is usually much less than the amount that would be paid for an out-of-network provider.
- **Out-of-Network Provider.** A provider that is not directly contracted with an individual's health insurance plan

Types of Health Insurance Plans. Different types of health insurance plans are available. In as far as it is possible, select the insurance plan that is the best fit for your family's needs.

Private Plans. The following general descriptions of the different types of private plans and the coverage that they provide may not be exactly the same as the description of your child's coverage in your plan (or your child's individual plan). Be sure to check your child's coverage.

Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)

A health maintenance organization is a network of providers (doctors, hospitals and clinics) that provides the HMO plan members with reduced costs for medical services. When they belong to an HMO:

- Plan members choose a primary care provider (PCP) who oversees their needs.
- Plan members who need access to a specialist are often required to get a referral from their PCP.
- Patients may need precertification before nonemergency hospital visits and some types of specialist care.
- Patients requiring emergency care may be required to notify their HMO within 24 hours of receiving care.

Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs)

A preferred provider organization is a group of doctors, hospitals and other healthcare professionals who agree to provide healthcare services for PPO plan members at a reduced fee. When they are enrolled in a PPO plan:

- Members may pay a standard co-pay amount for an office visit.
- Members can choose between either an in-network or an out-of-network provider instead of being restricted to designated providers.
- A member may go to a specialist without a referral from the primary care provider. An in-network specialist is usually the least expensive choice. A member can still go to an out-of-network provider, but the visit may not be covered at the lower rate that insurance policy provides for an in-network provider visit.
- If a member sees an out-of-network specialist, they may have to pay the entire bill first, and then submit a claim to the insurance provider for reimbursement.
- There may be a separate deductible for out-of-network medical services, or members may have to pay the difference between in-network charges and out-of-network charges; this practice is referred to as "balance billing."
- Members may need to get precertification (preauthorization from the insurance provider) for some types of care, especially if the facility or doctor is out of network. Some types of services may not be covered.

Exclusive Provider Organizations (EPOs)

The EPO and PPO plans both provide their members with reduced costs and charge members a co-pay amount for an office visit; however, when they are enrolled in an EPO plan:

- Members may not need a referral from a primary care provider to see a specialist. However, members must select providers from a limited list.
- A plan member visiting an out-of-network doctor may incur from 20 to 100 percent of the costs.
- Patients who require a number of unique specialists may find an EPO plan problematic.

Point-of-Service (POS) Plans

The POS plans blend the features of HMO and PPO plans. If they are enrolled in a POS plan:

- Members of the plan can choose the type of provider network that is best suited to their needs each time they seek care.
- Plan participants designate an in-network provider to be their primary care provider.
- Plan members usually see their chosen primary care provider first for any medical issues. If necessary, the member would then be referred to a specialist.
- A POS plan member may need a referral from a primary care provider to see a specialist.
- Members may visit a licensed provider outside the network and still receive coverage, though at higher cost to the patient.

Fee-for-Service (FFS) plans

Fee-for-service plans are more flexible than the other plans, but they involve higher premiums and higher out-of-pocket expenses, as well as requiring more paperwork. If they are enrolled in an FFS plan:

- Plan members can choose their own doctors and hospitals.
- Members may visit a specialist without getting permission from a primary care provider.
- Members of an FFS plan may have to pay up front for medical services and then submit a claim for reimbursement.
- Participants in an FFS plan get only limited coverage for routine care.

Medicaid. Medicaid provides coverage for certain individuals and families with limited income. (Some states also include limited assets to determine eligibility.) Each state has its own Medicaid program with its own rules about eligibility and coverage. Visit www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/index.html to learn more about your state's Medicaid program.

State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP). This program provides free or subsidized health coverage for eligible children. It is part of the Medicaid program in many states. Most states cover children with family income up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Call **(877) 543-7669** or visit www.insurekidsnow.gov for more information.

Medicare. Medicare provides health insurance coverage for people aged 65 years and older and people aged under 65 years with certain disabilities (as defined by the Social Security Administration). Visit www.medicare.gov for detailed information. Children under 18 years typically do not qualify for Medicare. Children under 18 years may be eligible for other government-funded health insurance programs for children and families.

TRICARE®. TRICARE is the healthcare program serving uniformed service members, retirees and their families. There are many different types of TRICARE available which depends on your status and location. Visit www.tricare.mil for more information.

Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits. Veterans' benefits provide comprehensive healthcare and other benefits for veterans and dependents of active-duty, retired or deceased members of the military. Call **(800) 827-1000** or visit **www.va.gov** for VA information.

COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) Coverage.

Employees who lose, leave or change jobs, or children who “age out” of their parent’s health insurance plan may be eligible to remain on the employer plan under COBRA. This federal law also applies to dependents (a spouse or child) who experiences divorce or legal separation from a covered employee, dependents of a deceased employee and dependents of an employee who becomes eligible for Medicare.

Continuation of health insurance through COBRA:

- Requires companies with 20 or more employees to offer continuous health coverage to employees and their covered dependents for a period of 18 to 36 months depending on the qualifying event
- Requires individuals to pay the entire premium (including the portion that the employer used to pay on their behalf and a 2 percent administrative fee)
- Will provide continuation of coverage. It may not be the least expensive option, but COBRA will provide continuation of coverage, and it allows the enrollee time to explore other options without incurring a gap in coverage.

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). These are special accounts that allow people to save pretax dollars and then use them to pay their medical expenses. Many employers provide FSAs or HSAs to employees who are enrolled in private health insurance plans. These accounts give participants the opportunity to plan for specific medical expenses and accrue tax benefits.

At the start of the health-plan year, people can deposit money in an FSA and then use it later to pay for all their anticipated out-of-pocket medical expenses. Funds must be used before the end of the year. However, employers can provide a roll-over option of up to \$500 or give employees a 3-month extension, during which they can use any remaining funds. Check with the employer to learn the specific policies of the FSA.

Health savings account (HSA) funds (unlike the FSA funds) do not expire. An HSA can only be used along with a high-deductible health insurance plan. In high-deductible plans, the patient is responsible for paying for the total amount of the costs of their care until the high deductible amount is met. Once the patient meets the out-of-pocket maximum, the insurance plan will pay 100 percent of the in-network covered services. The money in an HSA account can also be either invested or, if it is necessary, taken with the owner to another job.

Court-ordered Child Support. In situations of divorce, separation or unmarried parents, the custodial parent is the parent (or guardian) who has physical custody of the child. Through a court order, the noncustodial parent is often required to provide financial support for the child. The noncustodial parent typically makes regular payments of a set amount to the custodial parent to assist with the costs that come with caring for the child. The amount of child support payments is set on a case-by-case basis and follows state guidelines that take into account both parents’ income and other financial obligations.

Additionally, the noncustodial parent may be required to assist with the child’s healthcare costs. Current law requires that every child support order, enforced by a child support agency, includes a provision for healthcare coverage. Provisions may include:

- Providing health insurance for the child through an employer
- Paying premiums for private health insurance or reimbursing the custodial parent for the costs of health insurance for the child
- Sharing a portion of out-of-pocket costs for medical care for the child

TIP:

When looking for a new health insurance plan, remember, cost is not the only consideration. You need to think about the quality of the coverage as well, or you may end up paying more in medical expenses overall.

In some cases, a National Medical Support Notice (NMSN) or a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO) may be sent to the noncustodial parent’s employer requiring that the child be covered on the group plan the employer offers to employees if such coverage is available at a reasonable cost.

Due to the costs associated with cancer treatment, you may wish to request a review of an existing child support order. Child support laws vary by state. You may also wish to consult with a lawyer. Visit the Office of Child Support Enforcement website at www.acf.hhs.gov/css/child-support-professionals/state-agencies to find your local child support agency.

Understanding the Health Insurance Plan. To estimate the cost of medical care, you must understand your child’s coverage as provided by your (or your child’s) health insurance plan.

Plan Name		
Type of Plan		
Primary Care Provider	Covered In Network <input type="checkbox"/>	Covered Out of Network <input type="checkbox"/>
Specialists	Covered In Network <input type="checkbox"/>	Covered Out of Network <input type="checkbox"/>
Treatment Center	Covered In Network <input type="checkbox"/>	Covered Out of Network <input type="checkbox"/>
Other Medical Service Providers (Lab Tests, Infusions, Radiology)	Covered In Network <input type="checkbox"/>	Covered Out of Network <input type="checkbox"/>
Premium	Per Month: \$ _____	Per Year: \$ _____
Maximum Out-of-Pocket Expense	Per Individual Per Year: \$ _____	Per Family Per Year: \$ _____
Co-pays and/or Co-insurance	Co-Pay Co-Insurance	
	Primary Care Visits:	\$ _____ %
	Specialist Visits:	\$ _____ %
	Hospitalization:	\$ _____ %
	Emergency Room:	\$ _____ %
	Urgent Care:	\$ _____ %
	Prescription Drugs:*	\$ _____ %
Plan Status as of this Date: _____	\$ _____ of patient’s \$ _____ individual deductible has been met \$ _____ of patient’s \$ _____ family deductible has been met \$ _____ of patient’s \$ _____ individual maximum out-of-pocket expense has been met \$ _____ of patient’s \$ _____ family maximum out-of-pocket expense has been met	

*Check the insurance plan’s formulary to see if the drugs the patient takes are covered. If a drug is not listed, be aware the patient will be responsible for the cost.



Use **Worksheet 17: Understanding the Health Insurance Plan** if the insurance plan changes.

Denial of Insurance Coverage. If an insurance company denies coverage for a recommended treatment, procedure or prescription medication, you may be able to get the decision overturned by filing an appeal. Before you file an appeal, contact your insurance provider to find out why payment was denied. The reason may be a mistake, such as a coding error.

However, if the payment was denied for another reason (for example, because the insurer did not think the treatment was medically necessary), then you can appeal the decision. Members of the healthcare team may be able to assist with the process. Submitting all necessary paperwork and key documents by stated deadlines are important elements in improving the likelihood of a successful appeal.

Keep track of:

- The date, time and method of any correspondence with the insurance company (by phone, email, text or in writing)
- The name and contact information of any insurance agent or claim reviewer who communicates with you
- Summaries of your conversations and any written documents issued by the insurance company

You can get information on the appeals process by calling the insurance company, visiting the insurer's website or reading the plan's documents or Explanation of Benefits.



Use **Worksheet 18: Health Insurance Appeal Tracking Form** to keep track of appeals as you work through the process.



To learn more about the appeals process, visit <https://trriagecancer.org/quickguide-appeals> to view a Quick Guide to Appeals for Employer-Sponsored & Individual Health Insurance.

Explanation of Benefits (EOB). Typically, after a patient receives medical care, the provider sends a bill or claim to the insurance company. The insurance company handles the claim and sends you an Explanation of Benefits statement. This is a summary of the services the patient received, how much the provider charged the insurance company and how much the insurance company paid. The EOB may also include the amount that has been paid toward the policy's deductible. Most EOB forms start with identifying information specific to the patient and the insurance plan, as well as a list of services received. If any of this information is incorrect, it is important that you notify the insurance provider.

For each service that the provider is requesting reimbursement, there is a description of the service along with a corresponding code and the date the service was provided.

An EOB is not a bill, so no payments should be made based on the information found in that statement. The hospital or provider will bill you if there is a balance due.



To learn more, visit www.LLS.org/booklets to view **Cancer and Your Finances**.

The Appeals Process. If you choose to call the insurance provider, the following questions may be useful when appealing a denial of coverage:

1. Can you send me a copy of the denial letter?
2. What is the specific reason the claim was denied? (This information should be included in the denial letter.)
3. Can I get a current copy of the plan document and the plan's Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) online? If not, how can I get a copy of that information? Can you mail it to me?
4. Whom can I contact at the insurance company to discuss the denial? May I have that person's direct phone number?
5. How can I request a doctor peer review? (A peer review provides the opportunity for the patient's doctor to discuss the patient's treatment in detail with a doctor who works for the insurance provider.)
6. Is there anyone else I can speak to if I have questions about the appeals process?
7. If a particular drug is not on the prescription plan's covered drug list (formulary), is there a process by which an exception can be made? Can my child's doctor obtain approval by submitting a letter explaining why the drug is medically necessary?

There are three levels of appeals:

- An internal review by the insurer
- A second-level appeal to the insurer if the first is denied. That appeal will be reviewed by people who were not involved in the first appeal (Not all insurance companies have second-level internal appeal.)
- If the internal appeals are denied, an external appeal to an independent outside organization is made. To begin this type of appeal, you can contact your State Insurance Department. It may refer you to an independent organization that can handle this level of appeal. You may also choose to get help from a social worker or an attorney.

If your child gets health coverage through a parent's employer, the plan may have to follow certain regulations set by a law called "ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act)." This law has specific rules about the appeal timelines, your rights and the type of information that the insurer is required to provide. The plan may have to follow specific state laws too.



Visit the Patient Advocate Foundation at www.patientadvocate.org and Triage Cancer at <https://triagecancer.org/> for more information and resources regarding navigating the insurance appeal process.

Managing Finances. It is important to understand your expenses and have a plan to manage them.

Budgeting. Planning a budget in advance and sticking to it is an important part of managing finances after a cancer diagnosis. If you share expenses with anyone else, such as a spouse, partner or co-parent, work together to create a budget.

Don't forget to consider all possible changes to expenses and income, such as:

- Wages lost from time off work for caring for your child
- Transportation and lodging if you live far from the treatment center
- Additional medical expenses, such as nutritional supplements, over-the-counter medications, hygiene products, wig, etc.
- Childcare for siblings and/or a pet sitter for when you are away

When working on a budget, look for ways to reduce expenses. Consider the following questions:

- Can any of the expenses be reduced by shopping for a different phone/cable plan or home insurance quote?
- Can you reach out to family members and friends to help with childcare or pet care?
- Is your family eligible for financial assistance programs?



Use **Worksheet 19: Budgeting** to begin budget planning.

TIP:

Ask the hospital or treatment center if you can set up a payment plan for medical bills. Many hospitals provide this option so you can pay a little bit each month instead of a large amount all at once.

Use the following example of a completed **Worksheet 19: Budgeting** as a guide to complete the worksheet.

Jane's Budget for August

Monthly Expenses	Expected	Actual
Health Insurance Premium and Estimated Medical Expenses	\$600	\$700
Rent/Mortgage	\$1,025	\$1,025
Utilities (Electric, Gas, Water)	\$135	\$130
Groceries/Food	\$325	\$350
Phone/Cell Phone	\$50	\$50
Cable/Internet/Streaming Services	\$150	\$150
Transportation (Car Payment, Gas, Bus Fare)	\$300	\$450
Debt Payments (Credit Cards/Loans)	\$200	\$200
Insurance Premiums (Car/Life)	\$75	\$75
Housecleaning/Landscaping		
Childcare	\$250	\$265
Other Expenses	\$55	\$70
Total Expenses	\$3,165	\$3,465

Jane used her last mortgage bill to fill in the exact amount for the category since the payment stays the same.

To estimate expenses for groceries and food, Jane checked last month's bank statement to see what she had spent at the grocery store and restaurants.

Jane ended up spending more on transportation than she anticipated. Driving to appointments meant more gas money and parking at the cancer center was costly.

Jane checked her last pay stubs to determine her income.

Sources of Monthly Income	Expected	Actual
Salary (Net Income*)	\$3,500	\$3,500
SSI (Supplemental Security Income)/SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance)		
Employment Benefits: Disability (Short- or Long-term)		
Retirement (Private and/or Social Security Administration [SSA])		
Financial Assistance		
Other Forms of Income		
Total Income	\$3,500	\$3,500

*Net income is take-home pay after taxes and other payroll deductions.

	Expected	Actual
Total Income	\$3,500	\$3,500
Total Expenses	\$3,165	\$3,465
After Expenses (Total Income— Total Expenses = After Expenses)	\$335	\$35

Financial Planning. Financial planning includes determining your short-term and long-term financial goals for you and your family and then taking steps to meet those goals. After your child’s diagnosis, you may wish to revisit your financial plans or create new ones. Some questions you may want to consider include:

- How will I pay for my family’s medical care and possible future medical care?
- Do I have savings easily available for emergency situations?
- What do my future financial goals include—retirement, saving for college, owning a home, paying off debt?
- Should I open a custodial savings account or individual retirement account (IRA) for my child?

You may wish to consult a professional financial advisor for expert advice. Financial advisors typically charge a fee for their services. Visit www.plannersearch.org to search for a Certified Financial Planner™ professional in your area.

Visit www.triagecancer.org/financial for more resources related to cancer and finances.

Financial Assistance. There are a number of ways to find financial assistance for expenses related to treatment or to replace lost income. Some organizations can also help with transportation costs, living expenses and/or prescription costs.

Financial Assistance Programs

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, more commonly referred to as “food stamps,” can help with food costs. To apply for benefits or for information, contact the local SNAP office. Visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-directory> to find a list of local offices.
- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition support for low-income pregnant women and children up to age 5 years. Visit www.fns.usda.gov/wic for more.
- The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides help paying the electric bill. To learn more or to apply, contact the local LIHEAP office. You can find your local office at <https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/search-tool/> or call The National Energy Assistance Referral hotline at **(866) 674-6327**.

LLS Financial Assistance Programs

- LLS offers financial assistance programs to help with insurance premiums, and treatment-related co-pays, travel and other expenses for eligible patients. For more information, visit www.LLS.org/finances or call **(800) 955-4572**.

TIP:

If there is an expense you are struggling to pay, you may need to do some creative thinking. For example, you probably won’t be able to find financial assistance to cover your credit card bill. However, you may be able to find a financial assistance program that can help with the electric bill, which frees up money in your budget that can be applied to your credit card payments.



Although no single resource exists that fully addresses a family's financial concerns, an Information Specialist at **(800) 955-4572** from The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) can provide information and referrals to help you. You can also visit www.LLS.org/ResourceDirectory to explore other organizations by need.

CancerCare. This national nonprofit agency provides free services, support, information and practical help to anyone affected by cancer. The organization offers guidance on financial issues and gives financial assistance to help with some types of costs. Call **(800) 813-HOPE [(800) 813-4673]** or visit www.cancercares.org to learn more.

NeedyMeds. NeedyMeds is a central source of information for people who cannot afford medicine or other healthcare expenses. Programs, such as assistance for specific diseases and conditions, application assistance, state-sponsored programs and Medicaid sites, are listed. Call **(800) 503-6897** or visit www.needymeds.org to learn more.



Use **Worksheet 20: Financial Assistance Record** when you apply for financial assistance. Keep a record of communications and keep track of applications.



For more information about cancer and finances, visit www.LLS.org/booklets to view ***Cancer and Your Finances***.

Financial and Legal Notes
