

# 2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Household Size	Poverty Level 100%	Poverty Level 150%	Poverty Level 200%	Poverty Level 300%
1	\$11,770	\$17,655	\$23,540	\$35,310
2	\$15,930	\$23,895	\$31,860	\$47,790
3	\$20,090	\$30,135	\$40,180	\$60,270
4	\$24,250	\$36,375	\$48,500	\$72,750
5	\$28,410	\$42,615	\$56,820	\$85,230
6	\$32,570	\$48,855	\$65,140	\$97,710
7	\$36,730	\$55,095	\$73,460	\$110,190
8	\$40,890	\$61,335	\$81,780	\$122,670

## List of Resources

### CLEAR Hotline

#### Outside King County

Those with low incomes may call CLEAR (Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral) at 1-888-201-1014

You can call CLEAR Monday-Friday from 9:15am to 12:15pm

Seniors, ages 60+, may call CLEAR\*Sr at 1-888-387-7111, regardless of income

#### Inside King County

Call 2-1-1

Deaf and hard of hearing callers can call 1-800-833-6384 or 711 for a free relay operator to connect to CLEAR

### Online Self-Help

Visit [WashingtonLawHelp.org](http://WashingtonLawHelp.org) for free legal publications and self-help packets



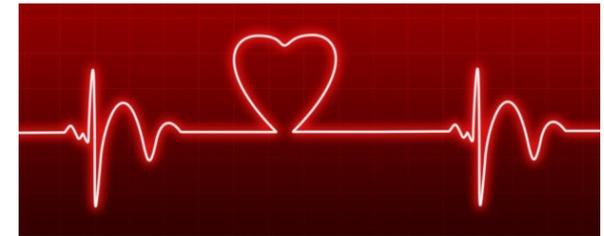
For more information on your Charity Care rights, contact the office below:

Columbia Legal Services  
300 Okanogan Ave, Suite 2A  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
(509) 662-0911 Ext. 134

[www.columbialegal.org](http://www.columbialegal.org)



## CHARITY CARE 2016



## DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE OR DISCOUNTED HOSPITAL CARE?

# Access to Charity Care

---

## What is Charity Care?

---

Washington State law requires all hospitals to provide Charity Care (also called financial assistance). You may qualify for free or reduced-cost hospital care based on your family size and income (see chart on reverse). If you are getting health care in a hospital, if you have a bill from a hospital, or even if the bill has been sent to a debt collector, ask the hospital's billing department for a Charity Care application and financial guidelines to find out if you are eligible for free care or a discount.

## Who has to provide Charity Care?

---

Charity Care does not cover non-hospital services, which means that lab tests, anesthesia and physician charges may not be covered. But if you are low income and you ask those providers directly, sometimes they will reduce your bills based on their own policies.

## How do I ask for Charity Care?

---

The hospital should tell you about Charity Care, but you may ask for Charity Care at

any time yourself, even if the hospital did not tell you about this program. Simply ask for an application and information explaining how to apply for Charity Care. You can apply for Charity Care even after your bill has been turned over to a debt collector or you have been sued for the hospital bill.

If you have been sued, ask for Charity Care right away and tell the debt collector and judge that you are applying for Charity Care.

## What do I have to do?

---

Fill out the application and turn it in. You will have to show your income to get Charity Care. You only need to give the hospital one of following papers:

- Recent pay stubs
- Last year's income tax return or W-2
- Written statements from an employer

If you don't have any of these, the hospital must accept a signed statement from you. Make copies of all your papers and the application before you send them in. The hospital must decide whether you are eligible within 14 days, and if it denies Charity Care it must tell you why you were denied or ask for additional information.

## Do I have to be a citizen or legal resident to receive Charity Care?

---

No. The hospital cannot ask you about immigration status or make you provide a social security number. You should not need to discuss your immigration status at all.

## How do I know if I qualify for Charity Care?

---

You do not have to pay any amount at all for services provided by the hospital if your "family income" is below 100% of the federal poverty level. Anyone whose "family income" is between 100-200% of the federal poverty level will likely be eligible to have their hospital bill reduced. Some hospitals offer discounts to patients above 200% of the poverty level. You can use the chart provided on this brochure to see if you qualify.

## What is "family income"?

---

For family income, the income of all household members related to you by birth, marriage, or adoption will be counted.

*Cover image credit: Mark Lissone*