



# Hometown Health Centers Sliding Fee Discount Program January 2022

At Hometown Health Centers, our guiding mission is to provide access to quality health care services for all patients seeking care, regardless of their household income and ability to pay. High medical costs should never be a barrier to good health.

To accomplish this, Hometown Health Centers offers a **Sliding Fee Discount Program**, which provides eligible individuals and families with discounted health care services. In order for HHC to serve as many people as possible under this Program, applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements. This is **not** a health insurance policy and does not meet the criteria for a qualified health plan under the Affordable Care Act.

## What is the Sliding Fee Discount Program?

Hometown Health Centers offers a Sliding Fee Discount Program that allows eligible individuals to receive financial discounts for services provided by the Health Center. Each individual must apply to be eligible. Once enrolled, you will be informed as to what percentage of discount you are eligible for. All services offered by Hometown Health Centers are included in the Sliding Fee Discount Program.

## What services are not covered by the Sliding Fee Discount Program?

Services excluded from the Program are:

- Pharmacy / prescriptions
- Services provided by other organizations (such as laboratory testing, x-rays, other specialists)
- Surgical procedures performed by providers not employed by Hometown Health Centers
- Specialty referrals to providers not employed by Hometown Health Centers

## What are the qualifications for the Sliding Fee Discount Program?

All patients, or responsible parties, who wish to apply for the Sliding Fee Discount Program must complete a Sliding Fee Discount Program Application. The application requires the patient, or responsible party, to declare their family size/household family information and provide proof of household income prior to receiving a discount. By signing the Sliding Fee Discount Program Application, the applicant grants Hometown Health Centers access to their income information so it can be verified as it was disclosed on the application form.

Your family's annual gross household income cannot exceed the following federal poverty levels (FPL) as established annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Any applicant who has verified income below 200% of the federal poverty level is eligible for program enrollment, as long as all of the program requirements are met.

Patient who falls below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guidelines are eligible for a discount based on the sliding fee schedule.

2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$13,590
2	\$18,310
3	\$23,030
4	\$27,750
5	\$32,470
6	\$37,190
7	\$41,910
8	\$46,630
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,720 for each additional person.	

Patients falling below 100% of the FPL guidelines are required to pay a nominal fee for covered services. Once approved, the discount will be honored for all applicable services for up to 12 months, after which time the patient must reapply.

Qualifying patients are required to pay their share of expected charges based on the sliding fee rates and the nature of the scheduled office visit. All are expected to pay at least the nominal fee for services at the time of Registration.

The sliding fee discount can be applied towards deductibles, co-insurance, and non-covered services for eligible patients.

## How do I apply for Sliding Fee Discount Program enrollment?

An application for Sliding Fee Discount Program enrollment requires:

- A fully completed, signed, and dated application.
- Verification of income. Documentation of your income is required with your application. Commonly used documentation that is accepted includes pay stubs, unemployment compensation statements, workers compensation statements, social security benefit statements, supplemental security income (SSI)/public assistance statements, veterans payment statements, self-employment tax returns, pension or retirement income statements, other miscellaneous sources.

For purposes of income verification, applicants must provide at least one of the following for proof of income:

- Most recent pay stubs for one month (last two stubs if paid bi-weekly, four stubs if paid weekly)
- Prior year's W-2 (or Form 4506-T if a W-2 was not filed)
- Letter from employer
- Self-employed individuals will be required to submit a copy of their most recent tax return and/or detail of the most recent three months of income and expenses for the business
- No proof of income is necessary for patients who declare zero income or are homeless

## What other programs are available?

New York has several government-sponsored insurance programs including, but not limited to: Medicaid, Child Health Plus, Health NY and Prenatal Care Assistance (PCAP). Information can be found at [www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us). You may also contact your county Department of Social Services for information on these programs. Information on the available health plans offered through the New York State Health Exchange may be found at [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov) or by calling (855) 355-5777.

Hometown Health Centers also offers assistance with government-sponsored insurance program enrollment through our Outreach and Enrollment staff by calling (518) 370-1441 ext. 3145 (English) or ext. 3245 (Spanish). Outreach and Enrollment staff can also assist with any questions you may have regarding your Sliding Fee Discount Program enrollment.

## What options are available to me if I am not eligible for the Sliding Fee Discount Program?

Hometown Health Centers makes every reasonable effort to assist patients, and responsible parties, to resolve their outstanding balances. If the patient or responsible party is unable to pay the full outstanding account balance, they may contact our Billing Department to set up a monthly payment plan arrangement. HHC's Billing Department can be reached at (518) 379-1441 ext. 3144.