

## ***Support Service Fund: 2010 Guidelines for Financial Assistance*** **Maine Breast Cancer Coalition**

**(Application Valid until 12/31/10---after that date download a current application at [www.mainebreastcancer.org](http://www.mainebreastcancer.org) or call our toll free number at 1-800-928-2644)**

The **Maine Breast Cancer Coalition** (MBCC) is a non-profit, grassroots, volunteer-based organization established in 1992. We are 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.***

This year's Support Service Fund has been sponsored in part by grants from the Maine Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the Maine Cancer Foundation, the Borman Family Foundation, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Pink Sock Foundation, as well as donations from the Fraternal Order of Eagles Brewer and Rumford Aeries, the Greater Bangor Area Women's Ski and Snowboard Club, the York Hospital Breast Cancer Survivors Support Group, Inverness Medical Innovations, PATCO Construction, Stonewall Kitchen, and other generous donations made to the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition. The Maine Breast Cancer Specialty License Plate program also provides major support for the Fund.

### **To Qualify:**

- There are no income level requirements but you must indicate a financial need not able to be met by other available resources.
- Requests must be related to breast health or breast cancer.
- You must complete the confidential financial assistance application with supporting attachments.
- You must be a Maine resident.
- Charges must not be more than 12 months old.
- Charges previously submitted are not eligible for reconsideration.
- You must not have exceeded the per person limit set by the MBCC.

### **To Apply: *Please apply before receiving services whenever possible.***

- Please read the 4-page financial assistance application.
- Complete page 2 and return to the Fund Committee.
- 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.**

### **The Support Service Fund Committee will review all applications.**

- Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision.
- Only completed applications with attached supporting information will be considered by the Committee.
- Once approved, all invoices must be received within 60 days of the service to remain eligible for payment.
- Mail or fax all applications with supporting information to:

**Support Service Fund Committee  
Maine Breast Cancer Coalition  
499 Broadway, PMB 362  
Bangor, ME 04401-3460**

**Phone and Fax 1-800-928-2644**

**Support Service Fund 2010 Application for Financial Assistance  
Maine Breast Cancer Coalition**

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**All items on this page must be completed. Please print clearly.  
See page 1 for guidelines. Please call 1-800-928-2644 if you need help to complete.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_, ME Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone-Day \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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 Do you qualify for the Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program? Please see attached Resources in Maine list, page 3-4 and call 1-800-350-5180 or TTY 287-8015 to inquire.

6. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Do you qualify for MaineCare (formerly called Medicaid)? Please see the attached Resources in Maine list, page 3-4 for details and how to contact.

7. \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Is this item covered by your insurance, Medicare, hospital Charity Care or State/City/Town programs? Please see attached Resources in Maine list, page 3-4.

8. Explain why you require financial assistance \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(continue on back if needed)

9. How did you learn about the *Support Service Fund*? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Have you applied to the *Support Service Fund* in the past? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Year\_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you been diagnosed with breast cancer? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Year\_\_\_\_\_

12. Are you: \_\_\_White \_\_\_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 have determined that I do not qualify for financial assistance from other sources as listed on the provided Breast Health Resources in Maine list on application pages 3 & 4.*

14. **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## BREAST HEALTH RESOURCES IN MAINE

**Caring Connections Programs:** 941-2808

**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 Susan G. Komen for the Cure – Maine. 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 Susan G. Komen for the Cure – Maine. Bridging Books, through the patient’s surgeon, provides a comprehensive book and other resource materials to women newly diagnosed with Breast Cancer.

**Bureau of Insurance:** 207- 624-8475 or 1- 800-300-5000

Call if you have insurance but have been denied coverage and want clarification about your rights.

**Cancer Support Center of Maine:** 207-469-6363 or email [Barbara.Vittum@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Barbara.Vittum@umit.maine.edu)

The Cancer Support Center of Maine provides free services to cancer patients, survivors, and people at risk in Maine through education, outreach, advocacy, and social support. It helps clients navigate the often complex and confusing bureaucracy of health management in a time of crisis with an emphasis on free or reduced cost programs.

**CarePartners:** To be eligible for CarePartners an applicant must reside in one of the four CarePartners program service areas for a period of at least 6 months. Four CarePartners service areas, including surrounding communities:

Portland: 662-7000; Augusta: 626-1684; Waterville: 872-4697; Damariscotta: 563-4810

**Food Stamps:** Contact the Department of Human Services (State of Maine) office nearest you.

**Free Clinics:** *Free clinics offer a range of services, call to find out if you qualify and if the services you need are provided:*

**Biddeford Free Clinic:** 282-1138 Open Monday & Thursday 6 – 9 pm. Call for an appointment.

**Knox County Health Clinic:** Located in Rockland. Call 594-6996 for more information.

**Oasis Health Center- Brunswick:** 721-9277. Open Tuesday evenings by appointment.

**Portland Street Clinic:** 874-8982 For residents of specific towns and qualifying situations. Open Monday – Thursday 6 p.m. to 7:30 pm by appointment only.

**The Free Medical Clinic of Downeast Maine:** 667-7953 By appointment only. Leave a message.

**York County Community HealthCare:** Free and sliding scale fees. Call Suzanne Brunner at 490-6900 for information or an appointment. Located at 6 Spruce St. Sanford, ME 04073

**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; therefore residents must contact the town office or selectmen before incurring medical bills.

**Heating Assistance:** Contact the CAP office nearest you.

**Hospitals:** Call your local hospital. All hospitals in Maine offer "**Charity Care**" or "**Free Care**" to those who are below 100% of the federal poverty level. Some hospitals offer free or reduced charges for those who are above the federal poverty level but are still low income. Call the hospital's billing office to apply for Free or Reduced Care. Also, call the social service dept. to see if there are other resources at the hospital.

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

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

**Maine Breast Cancer Coalition - Support Service Fund:** 1-800-928-2644 Financial support for breast health and breast cancer related care and products are available to Maine residents with a financial need not met by other resources. Call or visit [www.mainebreastcancer.org](http://www.mainebreastcancer.org) for information or an application.

Mail application to: Support Service Fund Committee, Maine Breast Cancer Coalition, 499 Broadway, PMB 362, Bangor, ME 04401

**Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program:** 1-800-350-5180 press 1 or if hearing impaired TTY 287-8015. Offers no-cost mammograms and Pap tests to women age 40 or older who qualify.

**MaineCare** (formerly Medicaid): Call your local Department of Human Services Office. Look in the phone book under "Maine, State of - Human Services Department" for your local office. Maine Care may be a resource for some women, depending on income and assets.

**MaineGeneral Health Center:** Reducing barriers to breast care in the Greater Kennebec Valley. Contact Jackie Cyr, RN, at 207-621-6162.

**Maine Primary Care Association:** 621-0677

Many communities have local health centers. These centers offer sliding scale fees for people of limited income. If you need help finding your local health center, please call the number listed above

**Medicare:** 1-800-772-0151. Call the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation for info on Medicare.

**Penobscot Community Health Center:** Located in Bangor. Sliding scale fees. Call 945-5247

**Penquis Health Services:** 1-877-326-2345 this toll free number will connect you to your local Family Planning Clinic. These health Clinics offer sliding scale fees for people who qualify.

**Redington-Fairview General Hospital:** Breast Health Funding. Contact Carol Stewart, Director of Support Services at 474-5121.

**SMMC Visiting Nurses:** Early Detection and Information Connection Program. Contact Sharon Landry at 985-1028, 72 Main Street, P.O. Box 739, Kennebec, ME 04043 or e-mail [bchp@smmc.org](mailto:bchp@smmc.org)

Two programs are funded by a grant from Susan G Komen for the Cure - Maine:

1: The Early Prevention Program – ages 30 to 39

2: Information Connection for women diagnosed with breast cancer who will receive a tote bag filled with resources at time of diagnosis.

**Susan G. Komen for the Cure:** 1-800-I'M AWARE

Additional resources may be available through programs funded by grants from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure – Maine. Call or visit [www.komenmaine.com](http://www.komenmaine.com) for more information.

**Travel assistance to treatments:**

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

*Hope Lodge* in Worcester, MA offers a free place to stay for patients who travel to Boston for treatments (through ACS 1-800-227-2345)

*Airlife* for cancer patients traveling to treatments 1-877-247-5433