

Medical Assistance Information

Compliments of Senior Living Advisors

Western Pennsylvania Resource Guide

We are a free service to help families choose an appropriate Independent Living apartment with services, Personal Care Home, or Assisted Living community for their loved one that matches the medical needs, financial capabilities, and geographic preferences.

With the family's permission, we will assess the candidate at home, at the skilled rehab unit, or at the hospital. After obtaining an accurate report to determine the scope of care the individual requires, we make appropriate recommendations of communities that fit the parameters of medical, financial, and geographic needs.

Senior Living Advisors will accompany the family and prospective resident on tours to help them through the process. Our skilled representatives will always make recommendations as if it were pertaining to our own Mom, Dad, or other loved one. We answer seven days a week.

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Medical Assistance Information

The following is a list of documentation that is required by the County Assistance office in order to process a Medical Assistance application. If you have any questions regarding eligibility, process or spend down process, please contact the County Assistance Office as we are unable to answer these questions. The application process can take several months from start to finish.

- Allegheny: (800) 344-4319
- Beaver: (724) 847-2262
- Butler: (888) 367-2434
- Washington: (888) 300-2704
- Westmoreland: (800) 442-8000

The Department of Public Welfare requires the following information when applying for medical assistance.

Completed Yes/No/NA	Document-just provide copies NOT originals
	Birth or Baptismal Certificate(if not available, contact the Social Security Administration and request a statement verifying date of birth)
	Social Security Card
	Medicare, Managed Care or DPW access card
	Letter verifying Health Insurance Premium
	Income Verification (all sources of income)
	Checking account statements 36 months(if not available, please contact bank to obtain copies of statements)
	Savings account statements 36 months(if not available please contact bank to obtain copies of statements)
	Stocks, bonds, certificates
	Burial trust fund, burial plot (a letter from cemetery is needed verifying current market value of burial plot)
	Verification of prepaid funeral arrangements
	Life Insurance (the face value is needed as well as a letter from the insurance company verifying the current cash value of policy)

	Deeds to any and all properties
	Property taxes
	Utility bills (gas, electric, water, sewage, telephone, garbage) for the past TWO months
	Rent receipts or mortgage payment verification
	Vehicle registration

Resources/ Acceptable Proof

Resource	Verification (value as of date of admission to nursing facility)
Cash on hand	Your written statement showing the total amount of money not in the bank or otherwise invested.
Savings account (s)	Photocopies of your bank statements, bank books or a written statement from financial institution.
Checking account (s)	Photocopies of your bank statement or written statement from financial institution.
Christmas and/or vacation club	Photocopies of the bank statement or written statement from financial institution
Stocks and/or bonds, etc.	A written statement from the brokerage firm, issuing agent or authority or institution where the stocks, bonds, etc. were purchased or held; a copy of the stock certificate or bond and a statement of value
Trust fund	Photocopy of the trust agreement and inventory of trust assets or other documentation of value.
Irrevocable burial reserve	Photocopy of the burial reserve agreement.
Revocable burial reserve	Photocopy of the burial reserve agreement.
Reserved burial	Photocopy of the reserve agreement.

Life insurance	A document identifying ownership for each insurance policy and a written statement of cash value from the insurance company.
Non-residential real property	Your real estate tax bill or a broker's statement of the fair market value of the property; and if the property is rented, the rental agreement or lease.
Motor vehicles	A written statement of value, from a car dealer, or list the year, make and model of the vehicle, and they will use the automobile red book to determine the value.
Boats, snowmobiles, trailers and other vehicles	A written statement of the fair market value of the vehicle, from a dealer.
Certificates of deposit	A written statement from the financial institution listing the value and ownership.
Annuities	A photocopy of the document that explains the terms, date of purchase, and value of the annuity at the time of admission.
Savings bonds	Photocopies of the bonds or a written statement from a bank that identifies the owner(s) of the bonds, the serial number(s), purchase date, and the value of the bonds at the time of admission.
Mutual funds	An itemized written statement of the value from the mutual fund or brokerage firm
Incorporated or unincorporated business(partnership/sole proprietorship)	For a corporation, a statement of the value of your stock, for an unincorporated business, documents that establish the business and that verify the value of your share of the business
IRA /401K	A written statement from the bank or financial institution that identifies the owner(s) and the value
Other	Photocopy of any agreement(s) or statement(s) regarding any money or other resources not already listed.

Pennsylvania Health Law Project

Helping people in need get the health care they deserve.

Pittsburgh Office: - <http://www.phlp.org/>

Helpline: (800) 274 - 3258

2325 E. Carson Street, First Floor

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Phone:(412) 434 5779

Fax: (412) 434 0128

What does PHLP do?

PHLP provides free legal services and advocacy to Pennsylvania residents having trouble accessing publicly-funded health care coverage and services. We accomplish this by:

- helping individual clients through our Helpline;
- educating health care consumers, advocates, and providers; and
- advocating on behalf of our clients at the federal, state, and local level for policies and practices that will best address their needs and protect their rights.

Who does PHLP help?

PHLP helps Pennsylvanians – especially low-income families, persons with disabilities, and the elderly – who are struggling to obtain health care coverage or services. We specialize in helping individuals and families access health care coverage and services through programs such as Medical Assistance, CHIP, and Medicare.

Can PHLP help me if...

I've recently lost my insurance coverage?

Yes. PHLP can tell you if you are eligible for a publicly-funded insurance program (for example, Medical Assistance or CHIP). If the insurance you lost was a public program, we can also tell you if your benefit was properly stopped and, if appropriate, represent you in an appeal.

My health insurance will not pay for my prescription (or other service)?

Yes. PHLP can help you if your insurance is through a public program such as Medical Assistance or CHIP. We can assist you and the doctor who prescribed the medication or service to ensure that you receive the treatment you need.

I'm uninsured?

Yes. PHLP can tell you if you are eligible for a publicly-funded insurance program (for example, Medical Assistance or CHIP). If you are not eligible for any of these insurance programs, PHLP may be able to help you get the health care you need through other programs or funding sources.

I'm having trouble with my doctor or am unhappy with the care I've received?

No. PHLP cannot help you if you want to bring a lawsuit because you're unhappy with the quality of a health care service you received. This type of case, often called a negligence or malpractice claim, is handled by private attorneys.

I'm trying to get a Power of Attorney or to establish guardianship of a relative or friend?

No. PHLP does not handle these types of cases.

I have unpaid medical bills?

Sometimes. PHLP can advise you on (1) hospital charity care programs and (2) coverage through Medical Assistance (if your debt is less than four months old). Otherwise, we do not handle medical debt matters.

Are Helpline services confidential?

Yes. PHLP is a law office and all communications with our attorneys and paralegals are covered by attorney-client privilege. We will not disclose any information about you to anyone outside of PHLP without your permission.

Does PHLP charge a fee for its services?

PHLP does not charge individual clients for its services, regardless of the client's income. Clients with the ability and the desire to support our services may do so by making a donation. We may charge for conducting trainings and presentations to community organizations or groups.

How is PHLP funded?

PHLP is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. We receive funding from Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, foundations, and private donations.

Is PHLP part of the government?

No. PHLP is a non-profit law office and is not part of the state or any government agency.

What happens when I call the PHLP Helpline (800) 274-3258?

When you call our Helpline, you will reach a voicemail box where you can leave a brief message with your name, phone number, and a short description of the reason for your call. We will return your call as soon as possible.

If you email PHLP, the process is similar. You will hear back shortly from one of our legal staff, who will typically ask for your phone number so that we can discuss your problem in detail.

Do you take walk-ins?

We recommend that you call our Helpline first. If your matter is urgent, explain your situation in your message and we will return your call as soon as we can. If you do not have regular access to a phone, we can arrange to meet with you in person.

Can I contact PHLP on behalf of a relative or friend?

Yes. However, depending on the circumstances, we may ask to speak to your relative or friend directly.