

# Patient Support Programs:

## A Guide to Medication & Treatment Assistance

### Help With Your Treatment

When starting a new treatment for kidney disease, you may need additional help with things like your insurance coverage, paying for treatment, understanding how the medicine works or how to take it, managing side effects, and other needs along your journey.

**Patient support programs** are designed to provide help in these areas. 501(c)(3) or government organizations provide these support programs. Let's take a look at the types of support these programs can offer:

Program	Helps with
Financial assistance	Paying for treatment, typically for people with lower incomes and/or who are not fully covered by insurance
Copay assistance	Reducing out-of-pocket costs for people who have a health insurance plan (e.g., employer provided health insurance)
Travel assistance	Getting to and from medical appointments where you will receive your treatment
In-home services	Receiving dialysis <sup>1</sup> or other treatments in your home
Lab testing	Paying for certain tests, like blood work or scans, that may be needed while receiving a treatment
Treatment education	Understanding your treatment, including how it works, how to take it, how to manage side effects, and any condition or treatment questions you may have
Non-medicine related assistance	Paying for food, clothing, or other needs if your condition makes it hard for you to work



#### Who is Eligible for Patient Support?

Whether you are eligible for a support program can depend on financial status, insurance coverage, the state you live in, your condition, and your treatment. When applying to a specific program, be sure to review the eligibility requirements.

# Organizations Offering Patient Support:

## 1. Advocacy Groups and Community Services

Certain non-profits provide financial assistance to help reduce your out-of-pocket treatment cost. They can also assist with other medical expenses like travel to treatment centers, childcare during treatment, clothing, food, and more. Some organizations also offer support through educational materials, help with navigating insurance questions, and access to specialists.

**For more information:** Reach out to advocacy organizations that support rare diseases to learn more about their assistance programs.

## 2. Government Organizations

Some states help residents having trouble paying for their medications and other aspects of treatment, including some medical devices.<sup>2</sup> They may provide additional services during disaster relief efforts, such as wildfires, hurricanes, or other events.

**For more information:** Visit [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) and search for your state or do an internet search for your state's Medicare program.



### Not sure where to start?

GlobalGenes:  
[GlobalGenes.org](https://www.globalgenes.org)

National Organization for Rare Disorders:  
[RareDiseases.org](https://www.rarediseases.org)

HealthWell Foundation:  
[HealthWellFoundation.org](https://www.healthwellfoundation.org)

The Assistance Fund:  
[TAFcares.org](https://www.tafcares.org)

RxAssist:  
[RXAssist.org](https://www.rxassist.org)

## References

1. National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute. NCI Dictionary of Cancer Terms. Accessed April 28, 2025. <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/dialysis>. 2. National Conference of State Legislatures. State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs. Updated October 26, 2022. Accessed April 28, 2025. <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-pharmaceutical-assistance-programs>.