

Sakakawea Medical Center

Summary of Charity Care Program Policy

SMC has an extensive Charity Care Program. We offer financial assistance for emergency and medically necessary services provided and billed through our office. This assistance, ranging from a reduction in the amount of the balance outstanding up to complete forgiveness of the balance outstanding, is provided to patients demonstrating financial need.

The SMC Charity Care Program Policy, Summary and Application are provided in English and the primary language of any populations that constitute more than 5 % or 1,000 person thresholds, whichever is less, of the residents in the community served.

If you are eligible for SMC Charity Care Program, you will not be charged more than amounts general billed to those who have insurance for emergency and medically necessary care.

To apply for assistance, fill out and return our Charity Care Program Application with all necessary documents to our office.

The assistance is provided on a sliding scale discount based upon verifiable total household income as a percentage of the federal poverty level (FPL) guideline. Please reference the following table:

Annual Family Income	Minimum Discount
100% or less of FPL	100%
101% - 125%	80%
126% - 150%	60%
151% - 175%	40%
176% - 200%	30%
201% or above FPL	No discount given

Exceptional financial circumstances - If your total household income exceeds the maximum

200 percent of the FPL, yet you have supplied additional documentation to support the hardship your medical condition has caused for you and your family, you will be considered on a case by case basis for assistance.

Notification of availability of our policy - Every effort will be made to identify patients needing assistance as early as possible. SMC will widely publicize the program through (1) signs at registration and waiting areas in our hospital, (2) policy, summary and application available on the SMC website, (3) patient billing statements, and (4) brochures and other informational materials provided to the patient and family.

Services covered by a Charity Care Program application - An approved Charity Care Program application will cover charges for emergency and medically necessary care provided and billed through our SMC facility. We will consider charges for services provided after our date of approval for up to six months without requiring a new application to be completed.

Extraordinary collection activities – SMC will not engage in extraordinary collection activities, such as lawsuits or garnishments, before making reasonable efforts to determine whether an individual who has an unpaid account is eligible for financial assistance.

How to obtain a free application or copy of our policy - You may obtain a free application or copy of our policy by visiting our website at www.smcnd.org. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may contact our billing office at 701-748-2225 to receive by mail or pick up at Sakakawea Medical Center, 510 8th Ave NE, Hazen, ND 58545.