

Cancer Patients: Living Under the Strain of Medical Debt



Financial Toxicity is a term used to describe the struggle cancer patients face in affording treatment. Cancer is known to be one of the most expensive conditions to treat.



In a recent [poll](#), over 50% of adults with cancer themselves or within their family had to cut their spending on basic necessities such as food and clothing. Financial Toxicity amongst cancer patients can exacerbate or create food insecurity.

Annually over 100,000 New Yorkers are diagnosed with cancer, amongst Black and Latino cancer patients living in New York, food insecurity was [found](#) to be 3 times higher than the national average.



What Can I Do?

All NYS hospitals are required to offer financial assistance, but many do not. The Ounce of Prevention Act would make financial assistance more accessible for patients. Support NYS patient advocates in their fight for a fairer system and make sure to always ask providers about financial assistance.

Learn More & Take Action: wethepatients.org

Additional Support For Cancer Patients



1. New York Cancer Foundation

Offers financial assistance for rent, utilities, phone bills, transportation and more.



2. The American Cancer Society

Offers organized rides to medical appointments and patient lodging programs in NYC and Rochester.



3. Cancer Care

Offers financial assistance for copays, transportation and child care.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center...

4. The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Offers financial assistance for the cost of care and prescription copays.



**Patient
Advocate
Foundation**

5. Patient Advocate Foundation

Provides funds for cancer patients with specific diagnoses. Find what diagnoses are eligible on their site.

Aid for Food Insecure New Yorkers



Food Help **NYC**

1. Food Help NYC

On their site, locate nearby food pantries and soup kitchens. All are open to everyone regardless of immigration status or income.



2. Food Bank NYC

Offers grab & go meals and food pantry bags. Mon-Thurs at their kitchen in Harlem, New Yorkers can grab 2 meals per person.



3. The Food Bank of Central NY

Hosts programs such as fresh food distribution, mobile food pantries, discounted monthly groceries and more.



4. Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY

Locate food pantries across Northeast New York.



5. Access NYC

Apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program directly on their site and find more financial aid options as well.