



SLIDING FEE DISCOUNT PROGRAM POLICY

At Precious Minds Counseling & Consulting (PMCC) we are dedicated to providing the quality competent care we all deserve regardless of language or financial barriers.

Purpose / Policy Statement

Our sliding fee discount program is patient centered, improves access to care, and assures that no patient will be denied mental behavioral care services due to an inability to pay. It is the goal of Precious Minds Counseling & Consulting (PMCC) to charge patients according to their ability to pay. Patients who have either no third-party reimbursement or inadequate coverage will be placed on a sliding fee scale according to family size and proof of income.

We do not receive any government money to fund this program. You are expected to pay the discounted rate or minimum fee for services. If you cannot pay at the time of service, please make arrangements with the office manager.

This fee scale is based on the Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines, published yearly. Updated guidelines can be obtained from the Census Bureau, HHES Division, Room 1462, Federal Office Building #3, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 20233, telephone (301) 457-3242,

PMCC will review evaluations of these operating procedures and assess their effectiveness every six (6) months. Our semiannual review includes, as appropriate:

1. taking follow-up action to update policies and/or
2. directing the site administrators to update operating procedures.

PMCC will provide staff training on implementation of sliding fee discount program policies and operating procedures, as needed.

Eligibility:

If you are uninsured and your family has a total household income less than 200% of the federal poverty level, you may qualify for a discount from our original fees. Income means your paycheck before deductions, pension, retirement, or social security income, cash child support, alimony, workers compensation payments, etc. from all sources in the family.

Incomes of all existing sliding scale patients are verified during the new patient registration process and semiannually thereafter. Changes in family size and income are noted in patient file. Appointments will



not be scheduled until the patient has provided acceptable documentation for determination of income. Adolescents (<18 years of age) seeking independent behavioral care will be considered at their individual income level.

Criteria considered in determining eligibility for a sliding fee include, but are not limited to:

1. The household's gross income and the total number of family members living in the home.

Supporting documentation may include the following:

1. One month income verification (prior month of date applying) in the form of pay stubs,
2. The prior year's tax returns (REQUIRED)

Nominal Fee:

PMCC site will collect a nominal charge of \$15 for those patients at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. All patients are required to make a minimum payment of \$15.00 at the time of the visit. For patients at the "A" level on the scale, this will be their nominal fee and there will be no additional charges billed. For patients at the higher levels of the scale; any remaining balance of charges will be billed. If the discounted charges are less than the \$15.00 payment received a credit will be applied to the patient's account. Waivers will be considered for new patients on their first visit.

Non-Payment:

PMCC will bill and collect from patients in an efficient, respectful, and culturally appropriate manner, assuring that our procedures do not present a barrier to care, and patient privacy and confidentiality are protected throughout the process. However, PMCC will waive the fee and not collect any past due balance, if the patient provides documented evidence of a hardship to the office manager, who has the authority to grant such waiver upon review.

PMCC's sliding fee discount program is displayed on the website: www.preciousmindscounseling.com