

Payment Assistance



**State of Alaska
Department of Administration
Division of Alaska Longevity Programs
Alaska Pioneers' Homes**

July 2002

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Alaska Statute and Alaska Administrative Codes referenced in this booklet are intended for general information purposes only. For any legal information please refer to an official pamphlet of the Alaska Statutes or the published register of the Alaska Administrative Code.

This booklet is one of four booklets available to provide information about the Pioneers' Homes of Alaska.

OTHER BOOKLETS IN THIS SERIES ARE:

Admission and Discharge Process

Mission and Vision

Pioneers' Home Pharmacy Program

The purpose of this booklet is to provide information regarding payment assistance to those residents who are unable to pay the full cost of care in a Pioneers' Home. The following are some of the most frequently asked questions regarding payment assistance.

1. WHAT ARE THE MONTHLY RATES?

There are five levels of service available to Pioneers' Home residents. Each level of service has a different monthly rate which does not include additional charges for things such as medications and supplies. The current rates effective July 1, 2002 are:

Coordinated Services (CS)	\$2,135
Basic Assisted Living Services (BAL)	\$3,865
Enhanced Assisted Living Services (EAL)	\$5,080
Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Services (ADRD)	\$5,270
Comprehensive Services (CC)	\$6,450
Infirmiry Services Prorated Daily CC Rate	

In addition, there are two other services available to non-residents of a Pioneers' Home in which the charges are based on a daily rate. These are:

Day Services	\$70
Respite Services	\$100

2. HOW CAN A RESIDENT APPLY FOR PAYMENT ASSISTANCE?

The resident or someone acting on the resident's behalf may complete a payment assistance application. Application forms can be obtained at any of the six Pioneers' Homes as well as at the Central Office of the Division of Alaska Longevity Programs (ALP) located on the 7th floor of the State Office Building in Juneau. Applications can also be obtained by calling 465-4416 in Juneau. If calling from outside of Juneau, please call 1-888-355-3117 for statewide toll-free calls.

3. WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED FOR A RESIDENT TO APPLY FOR PAYMENT ASSISTANCE?

The application must contain a complete and accurate disclosure of the applicant's resources and income during **the last 36 months from the date of application**. This should include a listing of:

- A) **All real property** (inside or outside the state) owned by the applicant or the applicant's spouse;
- B) **All major resources** including automobiles, boats, airplanes, jewelry, cash, stocks, bonds, notes, live stock, and major equipment owned by the applicant or the applicant's spouse;
- C) **The amount and source of all income** that the applicant or the applicant's spouse receives or might receive and copies of the applicant's and

the applicant's spouse's federal income tax filings for the preceding three years;

- D) **The number, location, and contents** of all savings, checking, brokerage, or other accounts and safe-deposit boxes held individually or jointly by the applicant or the applicant's spouse during the past three years.

In addition to the original application for payment assistance, ALP may require more information relevant to an applicant's eligibility. Such requests may require that the applicant give ALP access to various items including medical records and financial records. If the information regarding resources or income changes, an applicant must inform ALP as soon as possible. Information furnished is confidential and not subject to disclosure to the extent provided by law.

4. WHAT ITEMS ARE NOT CONSIDERED A RESOURCE OR INCOME?

For all residents:

- A) **A personal needs allowance** of \$100 a month;
- B) **A motor vehicle**;
- C) **Income and cash dividends** up to \$2000 stock, non-cash dividends from stock, and land received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;
- D) **The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend**;
- E) **Federal Department of Veterans Affairs** payments for disabilities only;

- F) **Compensation to volunteers** with the retired federal and senior volunteers, foster grandparents, and senior companion programs;
- G) **Federal World War II restitution payments;**
- H) **Federal Agent Orange Settlement Fund** payments;
- I) **Alaska Victim's Compensation** payments;
- J) **One or more life insurance policies;**
- K) **Burial provisions** for the resident and the resident's spouse or dependent, consisting of:
 - 1. burial insurance;
 - 2. a specific account, with a value up to \$4,500 for each person, designated for burial expenses or;
 - 3. both insurance and an account;
- L) **Burial spaces owned** by and for use of the resident and the resident's spouse or dependent.

5. WHAT IF A RESIDENT RECEIVES UNEXPECTED INCOME AFTER THEY ARE ALREADY IN THE PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

Any unexpected income or resources received by a resident who is in the payment assistance program shall be applied to their indebtedness to the state. The additional income or resource would not be applied towards the resident's regular anticipated payment.

6. IS A RESIDENT RECEIVING PAYMENT ASSISTANCE ALLOWED TO KEEP ANY OF HIS/HER INCOME?

If appropriations are sufficient and a resident receiving payment assistance does not have an income of at least \$100 a month, the ALP Division shall pay the amount necessary to bring the resident's monthly income up to \$100 for a personal needs allowance. In addition, the resident may keep their annual Permanent Fund dividends. The resident may accumulate this money in an account but may lose eligibility for the personal needs allowance if the accumulated money exceeds the allowable resource limit.

7. WHAT IF A RESIDENT HAS A SPOUSE LIVING INDEPENDENTLY IN A COMMUNITY?

Regulations protect certain resources and income of a spouse or of a legal dependent independently living in a community. The following items are not considered as a resource or income for a recipient of payment assistance with a spouse or dependent living in a community:

- A) **Real property** being used as the primary residence of the resident's spouse or dependent;
- B) **Other real and personal property**, both tangible and intangible, with a total value for both real and personal property of not more than \$100,000;
- C) **Property necessary** for the resident's physical condition, such as a prosthetic device, is not subject to the \$100,000 value limitation;

- D) **The income of the resident's spouse:** If the spouse's income is less than \$2,000 a month, a portion of the resident's income will be added to bring the spouse's income up to \$2,000 a month.

8. WHAT IF A RESIDENT DOES NOT HAVE A SPOUSE INDEPENDENTLY LIVING IN A COMMUNITY OR IF BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE RESIDE IN A PIONEERS' HOME?

For a resident *without* a spouse living in a community or if both spouses reside in a Pioneers' Home, the following items are not considered a resource or income:

- A) **Real and personal property**, both tangible and intangible with a total value of not more than \$5,000;
- B) **Property necessitated** by the resident's physical condition, such as a prosthetic device, is not subject to the \$5,000 value limitation.

9. WHAT IF A RESIDENT HAS GIVEN AWAY, SOLD, OR TRANSFERRED PROPERTY?

ALP shall include the value of any resources owned by the applicant within 36 months preceding the date of the payment assistance application. If the applicant gave away, sold, or assigned a resource for less than fair market value, it will be presumed to have been for the purpose of reducing the applicant's ability to pay the state for services in a Pioneers' Home. Any applicant has the right to appeal that presumption.

10. HOW WILL THE RESIDENT'S INCOME BE DISTRIBUTED?

If a resident receives a total monthly income of more than \$100 from all sources other than the ALP Division, the resident's excess income shall be applied in the following priority sequence:

- A) **Payment** of the resident's federal income tax;
- B) **Payment** of the resident's medication expenses;
- C) **Payment** of the resident's health insurance premiums;
- D) **Payment** of the resident's monthly rate and additional charges.

11. WHEN DOES PAYMENT ASSISTANCE TAKE EFFECT?

Payment assistance generally begins on the first day of the month following the month in which the application for payment assistance is approved.

12. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE INDEPTEDNESS OF A PIONEERS' HOME RESIDENT WHO RECEIVED PAYMENT ASSISTANCE IF THEY PASS AWAY?

A state claim for unpaid debt owed to the Pioneers' Home will be filed against the decedent's estate. The state will not pursue a claim to the extent that it will create an undue hardship on the surviving spouse or dependent of the decedent. Heirlooms are exempt from a state claim without regard to value.

DEFINITIONS

appropriations: A legislative act authorizing the expenditure of a designated amount of public funds for a specific purpose.

financially able: An applicant, resident, or recipient has;

- A) enough monthly income to pay the appropriate monthly rate and any additional charges;
- B) income of at least \$100 a month left for personal use after paying the rate and additional charges and;
- C) resources with a value that, after allowable items are excluded, would be sufficient to pay the full amount of monthly charges.

income: Both earned and unearned income, including wages, net earnings from self-employment, other payment for services, royalties, tax refunds, annuities, pensions, prizes and awards, child support and alimony received, and payments from the Alaska Longevity Bonus Program.

indebtedness: The amount of money owed to the state for payment assistance.

resources: All real and personal property including cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.

undue hardship: After considering other reasonable alternatives to obtain medical care, food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities of life an individual would be deprived of medical care such that the individual's health or life would be endangered or of food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities of life.

TOLL-FREE INFORMATION NUMBER

For answers to any questions regarding Payment Assistance, please call Pioneers' Home Revenue Office during working hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M-F). In Juneau , please call 465-4416. Outside Juneau, please use the statewide toll-free number: 1-888-355-3117.

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