

Payment Assistance



Alaska Pioneer Homes
State of Alaska
Department of
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Payment Assistance



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<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dalp/>

Pioneer Home Payment Assistance

This booklet provides information about the Pioneer Home Payment Assistance program, which is one program available to residents who are unable to pay the full monthly fees in a Pioneer Home. Frequently asked questions regarding the Pioneer Home Payment Assistance program are listed below.

1. What are the monthly rates?

There are three levels of service available to Pioneer Home residents. Each level of service has a different monthly rate, which does not include additional charges for medications and supplies. The monthly rates effective July 1, 2006 are:

Level I Services	\$2,240
Level II Services	\$4,060
Level III Services.....	\$5,880

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There are also two other services available at the Pioneer Homes on a daily basis for people who qualify, but do not live in a Pioneer Home:

Day Services\$70 per day

Respite Services.....\$100 per day

2. How can a resident apply for Payment Assistance?

The resident, or someone acting on the resident's behalf, completes a Payment Assistance application. Application forms can be obtained at any of the six Pioneer Homes as well as the Central Office of the Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes (DAPH) located on the 7th floor of the State Office Building in Juneau. Applications can also be obtained by calling (907) 465-4416 in Juneau. If calling from outside of Juneau, please use the statewide toll-free number: 1-888-355-3117.

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 for **the 36 months preceding the date of application**. This includes a listing of:

- A) All real property, inside or outside the state, owned in whole or in part by the applicant or the applicant's spouse;
- B) All resources including automobiles, boats, airplanes, jewelry, cash, stocks, bonds, notes, livestock, and major equipment owned in whole or in part 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;
- D) Complete copies of federal income tax returns for the applicant and the applicant's spouse for the preceding three years;
- E) 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 36 months.

In addition to the original application and supporting documents for Payment Assistance, DAPH may request additional information to determine an applicant's eligibility. Such requests may require that the applicant give DAPH access to various items including medical and financial records.

If resources or income changes, an applicant or resident on the Payment Assistance Program must inform DAPH as soon as possible. All information provided 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 per month;
- B) A motor vehicle;
- C) Assets received under Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act including cash and

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annual dividends up to \$2,000, stock, non-cash dividends from stock, and land;

- D) The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend;
- E) Compensation to volunteers with the retired federal and senior volunteers, foster grandparents, and senior companion programs;
- F) Federal World War II restitution payments;
- G) Federal Agent Orange Settlement Fund payments;
- H) Alaska Victim's Compensation payments;
- I) Life insurance policies that have no cash surrender value;
- J) Burial provisions for the resident and the resident's spouse or dependent with a value up to \$4,500 for each person, designated for burial expenses. This may consist of:
 - 1. burial insurance
 - 2. a specific account, or
 - 3. a combination of both burial

insurance and a specific account

- K) 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 on the Payment Assistance program?

Any unexpected income or resources received by a resident who is receiving Payment Assistance will be applied to their indebtedness to the state. The unexpected income or resources will not be applied towards the resident's regular monthly charge.

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 monthly income of at least \$100, the DAPH will 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 Dividend. The resident may accumulate this money in account but will lose eligibility for the personal needs allowance if the accumulated money exceeds \$5,000.

7. What if a resident has a spouse or legal dependent living independently in a community?

Regulations protect certain resources and income of a spouse or a legal dependent living independently in a community. The following items are not considered a resource or income of a Payment Assistance applicant who has 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 \$98,000;
- C) Property necessary for the resident, resident's spouse or dependent's physical condition, such as a prosthetic device, is not subject to the \$98,000 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 or dependent living independently in a community, or if both husband and wife reside in a Pioneer Home?

For a resident *without* a spouse living in a community or if both spouses reside in a Pioneer 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 \$10,000;
- B) Property necessitated by the resident's physical condition, such as a prosthetic device, is not subject to the \$10,000 value limitation

9. What if a resident has gifted, sold, or transferred assets?

The Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes includes as a resource the value of any assets owned by the applicant or applicant's spouse within 36 months preceding the date of the Payment Assistance application. If the applicant or applicant's spouse gifted, 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 Pioneer 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, the resident's excess income will be applied in the following priority sequence;

- A) Payment of the resident's federal income tax;
- B) Payment of the resident's medication expenses from providers other than the Pioneer Home centralized pharmacy;
- C) Payment of the resident's health insurance premiums;
- D) Payment of the resident's monthly rate, centralized pharmacy and ancillary charges.

11. When does Payment Assistance take effect?

Payment assistance generally begins the first day of the month following the month in which the application for Payment Assistance is received and approved.

12. What happens to the accrued indebtedness upon the death of a Pioneer Home resident who received Payment Assistance?

A state claim for unpaid debt owed to the Pioneer Homes 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 legal dependent of the decedent. Heirlooms are exempt from a state claim without regard to value.

13. What other programs are available to residents of a Pioneer Home who are unable to pay the monthly charges?

A change in Medicaid rules now allows Pioneer Home residents to apply for Medicaid benefits.

Medicaid is a state and federal program

that helps cover the cost of hospital, doctor, medications, durable medical equipment, personal care services, nursing home care and other services authorized by law. In many cases, Medicaid benefits will assist with payment of medical expenses that are not covered under the Pioneer Home Payment Assistance program.

Medicaid has income limitations similar to the Payment Assistance program, but with lower income and resource standards. For example, the burial allowance is \$1,500 and the resource limit is \$2,000.

There is a separate application process for Medicaid benefits through the Alaska Division of Public Assistance.

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;

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- 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.

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.

For more information:

Pioneer Home Payment Assistance

For answers to questions regarding the Pioneer Home Payment Assistance program, please call the Pioneer Home Revenue Office during working hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday). In Juneau, but within Alaska, please call 465-4416. Outside Juneau, please use the toll-free number: 1-888-355-3117.

Medicaid

For answers to any questions regarding Medicaid and Medicaid Waiver benefits, please call the Division of Public Assistance during working hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).

In Anchorage: (907) 269-6000 or
(888) 804-6330 (toll-free)

In Fairbanks: (907) 451-2850 or
(800) 478-2850 (toll-free)

In Juneau: (907) 465-3537 or
(800) 478-3537 (toll-free)

In Wasilla: (907) 376-3903 or
(800) 478-7778 (toll-free)







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This is one of four booklets providing information about the Pioneer Homes of Alaska. Other booklets in this series include:

Mission and Vision
Admissions and Discharge
Pioneer Home Pharmacy Program



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