



MARYLAND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Sliding Fee Discount Program Policy

Effective Date: May 1, 2026

1. Purpose

Maryland Behavioral Health is committed to ensuring that no individual is denied access to behavioral health services due to inability to pay. This Sliding Fee Discount Program (SFDP) establishes a systematic approach to providing discounted services based on a patient's household income and family size relative to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guidelines published annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

2. Eligibility

All patients are eligible to apply for the Sliding Fee Discount Program regardless of insurance status, immigration status, or citizenship. Eligibility is determined based on household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Patients at or below 100% FPL qualify for a nominal fee of \$20 per visit. Patients between 101% and 200% FPL receive a graduated discount. Patients above 200% FPL are responsible for the full fee or applicable insurance copay/coinsurance.

3. Application Process

Patients may request a Sliding Fee Discount Application at any Maryland Behavioral Health location, by phone at (301) 249-8100, or through the website at marylandbhealth.com. Patients must complete the application form and provide supporting documentation including proof of household income. Applications are reviewed by the billing department within 5 business days. Approved discounts are applied retroactively and remain in effect for 12 months. Patients must reapply annually or whenever household income or family size changes.

4. Income Verification

Acceptable forms of income documentation include: most recent federal tax return (Form 1040), two most recent pay stubs, Social Security or disability benefit letter, unemployment compensation statement, written statement from employer, or self-declaration of income (for patients with no verifiable income, a signed statement is accepted).

5. Nominal Fee

Patients at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level are charged a nominal fee of \$20.00 per visit. No patient will be charged less than the nominal fee. Patients who cannot afford the nominal fee may request a full fee waiver by speaking with the billing department.

6. Services Covered

The Sliding Fee Discount applies to all outpatient behavioral health services provided by Maryland Behavioral Health, including psychiatric evaluation, medication management, individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, ADHD evaluation, PRP, and crisis intervention. The discount does not apply to third-party charges such as laboratory fees, prescription medications, or services provided by external referral partners.

7. Notification

Maryland Behavioral Health informs patients of the SFDP through signage posted in the waiting area of each office location, information on the website at marylandbhealth.com/sliding-fee-discount-program/, verbal notification by front desk staff during intake, and written notice in the new patient welcome packet.

8. Non-Discrimination

No patient shall be denied services or treated differently based on ability to pay, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, or any other protected characteristic. The Sliding Fee Discount Program applies uniformly to all patients who meet the eligibility criteria.

9. Record Keeping

All Sliding Fee applications, supporting documentation, and approval/denial records are maintained in the patient's billing file for a minimum of 7 years in accordance with Maryland record retention requirements.

Discount Schedule

FPL Range	Discount	Patient Pays	Category
0% to 100% FPL	100%	Nominal (\$20)	Full discount
101% to 125% FPL	75%	25% of charges	Level A
126% to 150% FPL	50%	50% of charges	Level B
151% to 175% FPL	25%	75% of charges	Level C
176% to 200% FPL	10%	90% of charges	Level D
Above 200% FPL	None	Full charges	Full pay

Approved By: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name and Title: _____