

Alaska Pioneer Homes



Payment Assistance

Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes

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Mission:

Providing elder Alaskans a home and community, celebrating life through its final breath.

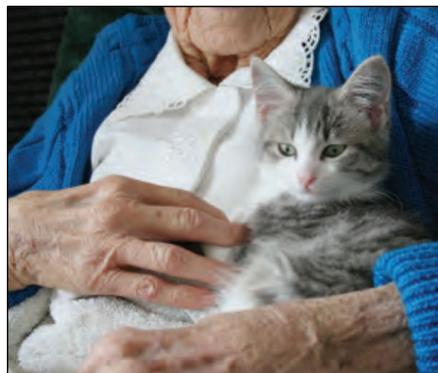


Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

Governor, Michael J. Dunleavy

Commissioner, Adam Crum

Division Director, Heidi Hamilton



April 2021

Payment Assistance

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For answers to questions regarding the Alaska Division of
Pioneer Homes programs, please call: **907-465-4416**

For answers to questions regarding costs and billing, please call our toll-free
number: **1-888-355-3117**

The Payment Assistance Program

This booklet provides information about the Alaska Pioneer Home Payment Assistance Program. A resident that is receiving Level III, IV, or V services and is applying for payment assistance must also apply for Medicaid and any other state or federal programs that may reduce the amount of state assistance required (Alaska Statute 47.55.020(e)). Medicaid may assist with the payment of medical expenses that are not covered under the Payment Assistance Program. Residents must apply for these other programs within 60 days of a request from the Department (7 AAC 74.040(e)).

The resource limitation for the Payment Assistance Program is \$128,640 for a resident with a spouse living in the community and \$10,000 per individual if there is no spouse or the spouse also lives in a care facility.

Along with the application for payment assistance, the resident or their personal representative must submit proof of Medicare coverage Part A (hospital), Part B (medical), and Part D (prescription drug) or equivalent medical insurance coverage from another provider (Alaska Statute 47.55).

There is a separate application process with the Division of Public Assistance for Medicaid benefits. Please consult with the Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers for help with resource limitations and applying for Medicaid benefits. The phone number for Aging and Disability Resource Centers is 1-855-565-2017.

An Alaska Pioneer Home resident who received payment assistance is indebted to the state for the amount of the assistance. Upon the liquidation of noncash resources, when a resident becomes deceased, a state claim for the payment assistance debt will be filed against the individual's estate. (AS 47.55.080, AS 47.55.090) The state will not pursue a claim to the extent that it will create an undue hardship on the surviving spouse or legal dependent(s) of the deceased. Heirlooms are exempt from a state claim without regard to value. (AS 47.55.095)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the monthly rates?

There are five levels of service available to Alaska Pioneer Homes residents. Each level of service has a different monthly rate, excluding charges for medications and supplies. The monthly rates effective January 1, 2021 are:

Level I: **\$3,005** per month

Level II: **\$5,466** per month

Level III: **\$7,915** per month

Level IV: **\$9,454** per month

Level V: **\$15,000** per month

Alaska Pioneer Home rates are established by Alaska state statute and reviewed annually for adjustment based on the annual federal Social Security Cost of Living increase as described in AS 47.55.030(g). Rates are subject to change, outside of annual cost-of-living adjustments, with state legislature approval.

** Each level of service also includes a room and board rate of \$579 per month. The remaining portion of the service charge is the residential service rate.*

2. How can a resident apply for payment assistance?

The resident, or their representative, completes a payment assistance application.

Application forms can be obtained:

- On our website:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/daph/Pages/paymentassistance>
- At any of the six Alaska Pioneer Homes;
- At the Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes Central Office located on the seventh floor of the State Office Building in Juneau;
- By phone: 907-465-4416 in Juneau and outside of Juneau by calling the toll-free statewide number 1-888-355-3117.
- By email: alaskapioneerhomes@alaska.gov

3. What information is required for an applicant or 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:

- All real property, inside or outside the state, owned in whole or in part by the applicant or the applicant's spouse;
- 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;
- The amount and source of all income that the applicant or the applicant's spouse receives or might receive;
- Complete copies of federal income tax returns for the applicant and the applicant's spouse for the preceding three years;
- 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 application and supporting documents for payment assistance, the Alaska Pioneer Homes may request additional information to determine an applicant's eligibility. Such requests may require that the applicant give the Alaska Pioneer Homes access to additional financial records.

If resources or income changes, an applicant or resident on the Payment Assistance Program must inform the Alaska Pioneer Homes as soon as possible. All information submitted to the Alaska Pioneer Homes is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and is confidential and will not be disclosed as provided by law.

4. What items are not considered a resource or a source of income?

- A personal needs allowance of \$300 per month if resources are less than \$5,000;
- A motor vehicle;
- Assets received under Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act including cash and annual dividends up to \$2,000, stock, non-

cash dividends from stock, and land;

- Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend;
- Compensation to volunteers with the retired federal and senior volunteers, foster grandparents, and senior companion programs;
- Federal World War II restitution payments;
- Federal Agent Orange Settlement Fund payments;
- Alaska Victim's Compensation payments;
- Life insurance policies that have no cash surrender value;
- Burial provisions for the resident and the resident's spouse or dependent with a value up to \$4,500 for each person. This may consist of:
 - Burial insurance;
 - A specific account, or
 - A combination of both burial insurance and a specific account.
- Burial spaces owned by and for use of the resident and the resident's spouse or dependents.

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 most often be applied to their indebtedness to the state.

6. Is a resident receiving payment assistance allowed to keep any of his/her income?

If legislative appropriations are sufficient and a resident receiving payment assistance does not have a monthly income of at least \$300, the Alaska Pioneer Homes will pay the amount necessary to bring the resident's monthly income up to \$300 for a personal needs allowance. The resident may accumulate Permanent Fund Dividend money in an account but will lose eligibility for the personal needs allowance if the accumulated funds exceed \$5,000.

7. What if a resident has a spouse or legal dependent living separately 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 \$128,640 (as identified in 7 AAC 74.045, reviewed annually for adjustment);
- c. Property necessary for the resident, resident's spouse or dependent's physical condition, such as a prosthetic device, is not subject to the \$128,640 value limitation;
- d. The portion of the resident's or recipient's monthly income that will be used to bring the income of the resident's or recipient's spouse up to the maximum community spouse monthly maintenance allowance.

Please contact the Alaska Pioneer Homes Central Office, at the numbers listed at the end of this booklet, if you have questions regarding resource guidelines for a spouse or dependent living in the community.

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 per individual.
- 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 their 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 an Alaska 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 \$300 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 Alaska Pioneer Homes centralized pharmacy;
- c. Payment of the resident's personal health insurance premiums;
- d. Payment of the resident's monthly rate.

11. When does payment assistance take effect?

If approved, payment assistance generally begins the first day of the month following the month in which the application for payment assistance is received.

12. What happens to the accrued indebtedness?

An Alaska Pioneer Home resident who received payment assistance is indebted to the state for the amount of the assistance. Upon the liquidation of noncash resources, when a resident becomes deceased or leaves the Alaska Pioneer Homes, a state claim for the payment assistance debt will be filed against the individual'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(s) of the deceased. Heirlooms are exempt from a state claim without regard to value.

13. What about medical insurance and other expenses?

Any resident approved for the Payment Assistance Program is required to have Medicare Part A (hospital), Part B (medical), and Part D (prescription drug) or the equivalent medical insurance coverage from another provider.

Definitions

Legislative 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:

- Enough monthly income to pay the appropriate monthly rate and any additional charges;
- Income of at least \$300 a month left for personal use after paying the rate and additional charges; and
- 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 and shelter, or other necessities of life.

Contact Information

Alaska Pioneer Homes Payment Assistance Program

For answers to questions regarding the Alaska Pioneer Homes Payment Assistance Program, please call:

Alaska Pioneer Homes Central Office

Phone: 907-465-4416 or 1-888- 355-3117 (toll-free)

Hours: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Medicaid

For answers to any questions regarding Medicaid and Medicaid Waiver benefits, please call:

Division of Public Assistance

Hours: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In Anchorage: 907-269-6599 or 1-800-478-4372 (toll-free)

In Bethel: 907-543-2686 or 1-800-478-2686 (toll-free)

In Fairbanks: 907-451-2850 or 1-800-478-2850 (toll-free)

In Homer: 907-226-3040 or 1-877-235-2421 (toll-free)

In Kenai: 907-283-2900 or 1-800-478-9032 (toll-free)

In Ketchikan: 907-225-2135 or 1-800-478-2135 (toll-free)

In Kodiak: 907-486-3783 or 1-888-480-3783 (toll-free)

In Nome: 907-443-2237 or 1-800-478-2236 (toll-free)

In Juneau: 907-465-3537 or 1-800-478-3537 (toll-free)

In Sitka: 907-747-8234 or 1-800-478-8234 (toll-free)

In Wasilla: 907-376-3903 or 1-800-478-7778 (toll-free)

Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers

1-855-565-2017

This booklet is one of five providing information about Alaska Pioneer Homes.

Other booklets in the series:

About our Homes

Admissions and Discharge

A Matter of Rights

Pharmacy Program

www.dhss.alaska.gov/daph