

## Free or Reduced Cost for Care Policy

### Lower Cape Ambulance Association Inc

#### Purpose

As a nonprofit community service organization, Lower Cape Ambulance Association Inc. recognizes that some individuals may not have the means to pay all or any of his/her transport. The Board of Lower Cape has adopted the standards outlined in the Hill Burton Regulations. As a non obligated provider these are guidelines only and LCAA is not an obligated facility under the regulations.

#### Hill-Burton

In 1946, Congress passed a law that gave hospitals, nursing homes and others health facilities grants and loans for construction and modernization. In return, they agreed to provide a reasonable volume of services to persons unable to pay. The program ended in 1997, but organizations still follow the guidelines outlined by Hill-Burton.

#### Free or Reduced Cost Care

You are eligible to apply for Hill-Burton free care if your income is at or below the current HHS Poverty Guidelines. You are eligible for Hill-Burton reduced cost care if your income is as much as two times the HHS Poverty Guidelines.

A transport is not automatically free or reduced cost. A patient must apply at the offices of LCAA or by mail and be found eligible to receive free or reduced cost care. The patient may apply before or after he/she receives care and after a bill has been sent to a collection agency.

Only the costs of transport are covered, hospital or doctor costs are not covered by the LCAA application.

#### Poverty Guidelines

LCAA shall follow the poverty guidelines issued each year in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes.

#### Reasons for Denial

1. Income is more than the income specified by HHS
2. LCAA has exhausted its allowance for free care
3. Services requested or received are not covered by LCAA
4. Services requested are to be paid by a governmental program such as Medicare/Medicaid or insurance
5. Patient was asked to apply for Medicare/Medicaid or other governmental program and did not

6. Patient did not give the facility proof of income, such as a pay stub or w-2