

## What is the FQHC Sliding Fee Scale?<sup>1</sup>

FQHCs must provide the patients in their service area access to services without regard to their ability to pay.

FQHCs must develop a schedule of fees or payments (often called a sliding fee scale) for the services they provide to ensure that the cost of services not covered by insurance are discounted on the basis of the patient's ability to pay, for incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Ability to pay is determined by a patient's annual income and family size according to the most recent U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines.

**NH FQHCs discounted approximately \$7.6 million in 2014.<sup>2</sup>**

SAMPLE New Hampshire FQHC Sliding Fee Scale						
Annual Family Income Range						
Household Size	Below 100% FPL	101 – 125% FPL	126 – 150% FPL	151 – 175% FPL	176 – 200% FPL	Over 200% FPL
<b>Discount Applied</b>	<b>\$20 flat fee</b>	<b>80% discount</b>	<b>60% discount</b>	<b>40% discount</b>	<b>20% discount</b>	<b>10% discount</b>
1	Under \$10,830	\$10,831 – 13,537	\$13,538 – 16,245	\$16,246 – 18,952		
2	Under \$14,570	\$14,571 – 18,212	\$18,213 – 21,855	\$21,856 – 25,497		
3	Under \$18,310	\$18,311 – 22,887	\$22,888 – 27,465	\$27,466 – 32,042		
4	Under \$22,050	\$22,051 – 27,562	\$27,563 – 33,076	\$33,076 – 38,587		
5	Under \$25,790	\$25,791 – 32,237	\$32,238 – 38,685	\$38,686 – 45,132		
6	Under \$29,530	\$29,531 – 36,912	\$36,913 – 44,295	\$44,296 – 51,677		
7	Under \$33,270	\$33,271 – 41,587	\$41,588 – 49,905	\$49,906 – 58,222		
8	Under \$37,010	\$37,011 – 46,263	\$46,264 – 55,515	\$55,516 – 64,767	\$64,768 – 74,020	
Additional people	Add \$3,740 per person	Add \$4,675 per person	Add \$5,610 per person	Add \$6,545 per person	Add \$7,480 per person	Add \$7,480 per person

Each FQHC's sliding fee scale is different and the "slide" must be based on prevailing rates in the local community and approved by the FQHC board. Information that this discount is available should be posted in a prominent location.

To ensure that federal funding targets those who most need services, FQHCs are expected to have systems in place to maximize collection and reimbursement for the costs of providing health services.

<sup>1</sup> Sliding Fee Scale. Health Resources and Services Administration, <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/technicalassistance/taresources/slidingsscale.html>, accessed 1/26/2012.

<sup>2</sup> UDS 2014 NH Roll-Up