



Komen's mission is to save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer.

## SUSAN G. KOMEN® TREATMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The following assistance is available for qualifying breast cancer patients:

- ◆ Assessment by an oncology social worker
- ◆ Financial assistance for:
  - ◆ Oral pain and anti-nausea medication
  - ◆ Oral chemotherapy/hormone therapy
  - ◆ Child care/elder care
  - ◆ Transportation to and from treatment
  - ◆ Lymphedema care and supplies
  - ◆ Durable medical equipment
- ◆ Breast cancer education
- ◆ Psychosocial support
- ◆ Information about local resources

**Don't let financial hardship keep you from the treatment you need.**

Call the Susan G. Komen®  
Breast Care Helpline  
M-F 9AM-10PM  
1-877 GO KOMEN (465-6636) or email  
[helpline@komen.org](mailto:helpline@komen.org)



## REMOVING BARRIERS TO BREAST CANCER CARE THROUGH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### THE PROBLEM

Completing breast cancer treatment is very important as people who complete the full course of treatment have a higher chance of survival. Completing treatment can be hard due to a variety of barriers, including the financial costs.

For example, even with insurance coverage, the out-of-pocket cost for initial treatment can be more than \$5,000.00, five times more than what the average American has in their savings account (Huddleston). The reality is, some cannot afford bus fare or a tank of gas to get to their doctor's appointments or recommended treatments. Some cannot afford to pay the co-pays for their life-saving prescribed medications.

To get an idea of the problem, results from the 2016 CancerCare Patient Access and Engagement Report are shown in the graphic to the right. It demonstrates the extremes that some individuals go to make ends meet during treatment. An important takeaway is that 58 percent of respondents reported being distressed about their finances during treatment.



#### THE COST TO CARE

The 2016 CancerCare Patient Access and Engagement Report surveyed over 3,000 people with cancer, below are their findings.

##### TREATMENT PLANS

25%, under the age of 64, reported their care team never considered their financial situation during treatment planning

##### CARE ALTERING

38% Postponed or did not fill drug prescriptions  
34% Skipped doses of prescribed drugs  
31% Cut their pills in half

##### MISSED DOCTOR VISITS

39%, aged 25-54, said they "often, always or sometimes" postpone or skip doctor's appointments

##### MAKING ENDS MEET

33% decreased expenses such as groceries and transportation and/or borrowed money  
21% missed a utility bill  
17% missed a rent or mortgage payment

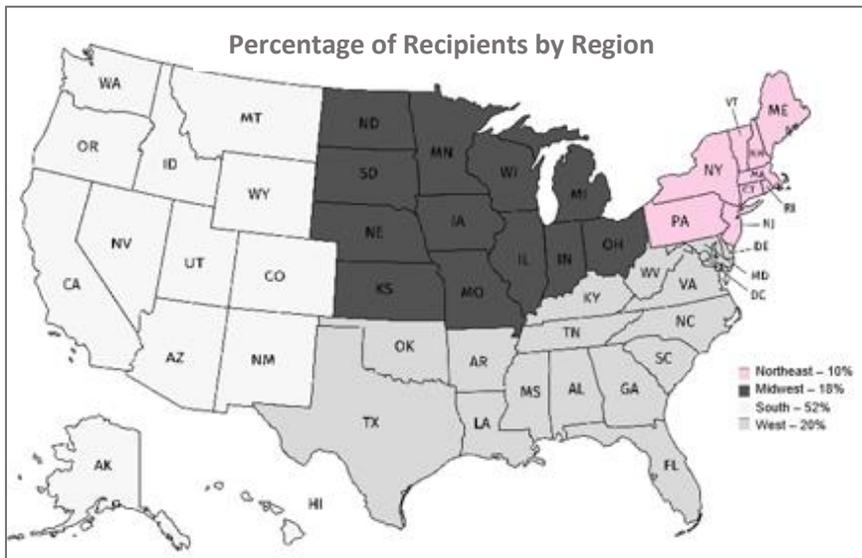
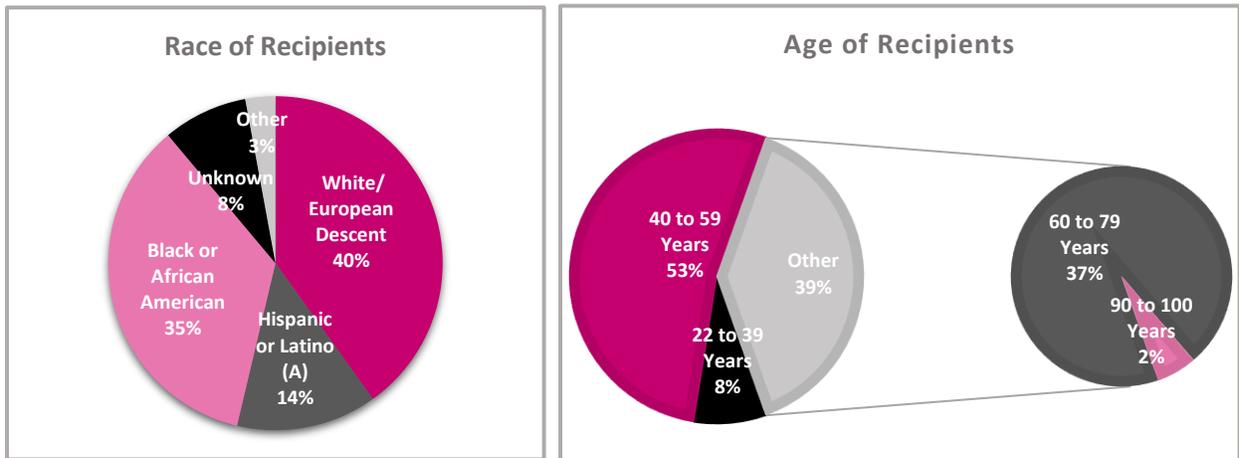
### OUR APPROACH

Susan G. Komen knows financial stress is a reality for many living with breast cancer. That is why we offer the Komen Treatment Assistance Fund to help people in need. Our goal is to help those facing financial challenges by providing limited financial assistance, education and support services to low-income, underinsured or uninsured women undergoing treatment for breast cancer across the country. While direct treatment and care are the primary costs associated with breast cancer, there are other indirect costs which can keep a person from receiving the life-saving care they need. Qualifying individuals must demonstrate need and meet predetermined eligibility criteria; for example, meeting the federal poverty threshold which is \$24,600 for a household of

four in 2017. Financial assistance is granted to individuals who are low-income, underinsured, or uninsured. Funding helps with oral pain and anti-nausea medication, oral chemotherapy, hormone therapy, child and elder care, transportation to and from treatment, lymphedema care and supplies, and durable medical equipment. Of the people who receive Komen Treatment Assistance funds, 85 percent use funding to help pay for transportation to and from treatment. By helping to reduce the financial burden, we hope more people will be able to make it to all their appointments and take all of their medications as prescribed, which leads to better outcomes.

Susan G. Komen’s Bold Goal is to reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths in the U.S. by 50 percent by 2026. To meet this goal, it is vital we provide financial assistance to help reduce barriers to care and aid in improving breast cancer outcomes.

## FY17 Statistics



*“I can’t tell you enough what the Fund means to me, at a time when I needed it the most. I was able to rent a car so I could go to my doctor’s appointments and treatments. I am so thankful for programs like this to help patients with financial needs.”*

- Recipient