

Understanding the Pooled Trust

Are you interested in Medicaid Home Care but worried about the financial consequences? Speak with your Sloan & Feller Social Worker, as he/she will be able to answer your trust related questions.

WHAT IS A POOLED TRUST?

A pooled income trust is a special type of trust that allows individuals of any age to become financially eligible for Medicaid home care services, even if their income is higher than the Medicaid guidelines. There is no limit on how much money you can deposit into the pooled trust.

WHO DOES THE TRUST BENEFIT?

Any resident of New York State who has excess income or assets above the Medicaid guidelines.

HOW IS THE TRUST FUNDED?

This trust works best for people who have excess monthly income above the Medicaid eligibility requirements. The pooled trust allows people to protect this portion of their income, which Medicaid would otherwise require to be “spent down on medical needs”.

The income deposited into the pooled trust is not considered when determining Medicaid eligibility each month, thereby maintaining your Medicaid services. Funds in the pooled trust are then used to pay living and other expenses which allow you to remain in the community.

Upon the beneficiary's death, the remaining balance in the account is retained by the trust to support other people with disabilities.

WHY DO I NEED TO SET UP A POOLED TRUST?

Setting up the pooled trust allows you to keep more of your monthly income, which would otherwise be paid out of pocket directly to Medicaid.

As a Medicaid applicant, you are allowed a maximum of approximately \$875.00 per month for living costs. The rest of your monthly income can be re-routed to the pooled trust and is used to pay your medical bills.

WHAT KINDS OF EXPENSES CAN THE POOLED TRUST PAY?

Funds that are in the pooled trust can be used to pay expenses that are for the sole benefit of the trust beneficiary. The trust can be used to pay for living expenses, such as:

- Homeowner expenses including real estate taxes, maintenance, utilities, and insurance
- Clothing, food, and shelter for non-SSI beneficiaries
- Rental Expenses
- Supplemental home care services
- Geriatric care services
- Entertainment and travel expenses
- Monthly credit card bill in trust holders name
- Medical procedures not provided through government programs
- **Attorney and guardian fees**
- Any other expenses not provided by government assistant programs