



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Jim Justice  
Governor

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Bill J. Crouch  
Cabinet Secretary

January 12, 2018

The Honorable Mitch Carmichael, President  
West Virginia Senate  
State Capitol Complex  
Building 1, Room 229M  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

The Honorable Tim Armstead, Speaker  
West Virginia House of Delegates  
State Capitol Complex  
Building 1, Room 228M  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear President Carmichael and Speaker Armstead:

As required by West Virginia Code §16-33-7(c), regarding the operation and status of the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund, please find enclosed the report for Fiscal Year 2017. This report is provided by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources through the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health.

If additional information is needed, you may contact Christina Mullins, Director, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, at (304) 356-4392 or e-mail at [Christina.R.Mullins@wv.gov](mailto:Christina.R.Mullins@wv.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill J. Crouch".

Bill J. Crouch  
Cabinet Secretary

BJC:bs

Enclosure

cc: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP  
Anne Williams  
Christina Mullins  
Steve Harrison  
Lee Cassis  
Legislative Library



# WEST VIRGINIA BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT FUND FISCAL YEAR 2016

December 2017

## **Purpose**

West Virginia Code §16-33-7(c), passed by the Legislature in 1996, established the Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund for the purpose of assisting medically indigent patients with certain diagnostic and treatment costs for breast and cervical cancer.

## **Accessing the Fund**

The West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund provides services to women through physicians, hospitals, and laboratories. Applications may be obtained through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP). Prior to performing the procedure, the provider must complete the application and submit it to the WVBCCSP. Applications are reviewed and approved based upon eligibility and availability of funds.

Should a patient be diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, she would then be eligible for medical coverage under Title XIX as a special option through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, funded through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Medical Services.

## **Diagnostic and Treatment Fund Eligibility**

To be eligible for covered procedures, the patient must:

- Be a resident of West Virginia.
- Have an income at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Have no health insurance including Medicaid and Medicare.
- Have a condition strongly suspicious for cancer which requires diagnostic services to confirm the preliminary diagnosis or have a positive pathology report indicating diagnostic or treatment services are needed.
- Have been screened or evaluated for breast cancer, cervical cancer, or both by a WVBCCSP contracted provider or a West Virginia licensed physician, hospital, or laboratory.

**Procedures Covered by the Fund During Fiscal Year (FY) 2017**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Breast or Cervical</b>
General anesthesia	Both
High-risk mammograms for women 40-49 years of age	Breast
Loop Electrode Excision Procedure (LEEP)	Cervical
Biopsy of excision of lesion	Cervical
Endocervical curettage	Cervical
Cryocautery of cervix	Cervical
Laser surgery of cervix	Cervical
Conization of cervix with or without repair	Cervical
Conization with LEEP	Cervical
Dilation & curettage – diagnostic and/or therapeutic	Cervical
Paracervical nerve block	Cervical
Pathology	Cervical

**Financial Support for the Fund**

State fiscal support for the Fund during FY 2017 was \$400,000. The Fund’s legislation allows for supplementing state funding with individual, organization, and foundation donations or grants. Fundraising efforts have been generously supported by various community groups, medical providers, and individuals. Two of the most successful fundraising efforts are Walks for Women and Quilts of Hope. Approximately 1,000 people participated in activities held throughout West Virginia during October 2016 as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities. Quilting groups from around West Virginia work in two-year cycles to complete quilts for the Quilts of Hope project. Together, volunteers spend thousands of hours completing quilting masterpieces. Each quilt illustrates a message of hope in the fight against cancer and celebrates West Virginia’s proud quilting heritage. Fiscal Year 2017 volunteer efforts raised a total of \$92,280.00 for the Fund.

**Fund Status**

From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund provided 71 diagnostic and treatment procedures for 57 women. When compared to the previous fiscal year, the number of women who benefited from the Fund decreased by approximately 29.8%.

Between FY 1997 and FY 2003, the Fund experienced increased utilization by women. In order to fully utilize all available funds for breast and cervical cancer screening services and benefit West Virginia women, the WVBCCSF changed several of its policies to reduce expenditures from the Fund. The policy changes included moving breast biopsies from the Fund to the federal screening program. The Fund began paying for much needed cervical procedures that the federal program is not allowed to cover and mammograms for high-risk women between the ages of 40-49 (the federal program only pays for mammograms for women aged 50-64 years). The effects of these policies correlate with the data trends shown in Figure 1. For example, the decrease seen in 2004 is reflective of the Fund no longer covering breast biopsies. The growth seen in 2007 and 2008 correlates with the Program's planned temporary policy change to provide colposcopy for women aged 18 to 24 years with a Pap test result of Low-grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesion (LSIL).

The impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and expanded Medicaid is evident when looking at data for FY 2014 and 2015. In FY 2014, numbers during the first half of the year remained comparatively strong, with sharp declines beginning in January 2014 when many people who would have accessed the Fund became enrolled in expanded Medicaid. Even more dramatic decreases were seen in FY 2015, the first full year of ACA implementation and expanded Medicaid. The ACA and Medicaid expansion continue to impact numbers. The WVBCCSF is looking to update policy to determine what additional services may need to be provided/covered by the Fund to ensure that healthcare gaps are being met and that policy is current with modern medical recommendations.

## **Conclusion**

While numbers have declined over the past several years, the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund continues to serve West Virginia's most vulnerable populations and remains true to its goal of improving the health of West Virginia's women. Despite the implementation of the ACA and expanded Medicaid, data shows that women are still accessing the Fund for medical issues. During FY 2017, 57 women received 71 potentially life-saving procedures that they otherwise would not have been able to afford. There are still women who are falling through healthcare/insurance

gaps - their income is too high for Medicaid, but too low to afford a plan in the Marketplace. Other issues that are becoming more commonplace include women with subpar insurance plans that have high deductibles or co-pays and plans that do not cover diagnostic and treatment services.

Figure 1. Number of women receiving services through the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic and Treatment Fund from 1997 through 2017.

