

## Possible GVHD-Specific Financial Assistance

### 1. PAN Foundation – GVHD Patient Assistance Fund

- A national nonprofit that has or had a fund specifically for people living with **graft-versus-host disease** to help cover **deductibles, copays, and coinsurance** costs related to GVHD treatment.
- Designed to support underinsured patients with chronic or rare conditions.
- Eligibility typically includes income criteria and insurance status.
- Visit the PAN Foundation website or contact them to check if the **GVHD fund is open now and how to apply**.

### 2. Be The Match® / NMDP Financial Assistance Grants

The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), which runs Be The Match®, offers several **financial aid grants** that can apply to people with GVHD:

#### Types of grants:

- **GVHD Grant** — helps with out-of-pocket GVHD treatment costs (for those actively receiving treatment).
- **Post-transplant grant** — for expenses after transplant.
- **Travel grants** — for travel related to clinical trials.
- **Crisis grants** — for unexpected financial hardship situations (may be up to ~\$10,000).

**How to apply:** Usually through your transplant center’s social worker or patient navigator.

## Prescription and Treatment Cost Support

### 3. IncyteCARES Patient Support Program

- If you’re prescribed **Jakafi® (ruxolitinib)** for chronic GVHD, **IncyteCARES** can help with:
  - Insurance support and coverage verification
  - Copay and savings programs (for eligible insured patients)
  - Free product assistance for eligible uninsured/underinsured patients.

## **Broader Patient Assistance & Support Organizations**

Even though these aren't specific to ocular GVHD, they may help cover related medical, travel, or daily living expenses:

### **4. Blood Cancer United (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS))**

- Offers financial assistance for insurance premiums, copays, and non-medical costs like travel, utilities, and housing for those with blood cancers and related conditions like GVHD.
- Contact LLS for details and eligibility.

### **5. Cancer Financial Assistance Coalition (CFAC)**

- A **database and network** of organizations in the U.S. that provide financial help for:
  - Medical bills
  - Travel costs
  - Housing and utilities
  - Food and transportation
  - Legal and insurance help

You can search CFAC's listings to find programs that match your specific financial and medical needs.

### **6. Patient Advocate Foundation**

- Offers **case management** and financial aid help (e.g., negotiating medical bills, insurance appeals, copay assistance).

### **7. NeedyMeds**

- A national database of **patient assistance programs and prescription savings** resources to find programs available based on your needs and insurance status.

## **Eye Care Specific Aid (General Vision Support)**

While these aren't GVHD-specific, they may help with routine eye care which could be relevant if ocular GVHD impacts your vision:


## 8. EyeCare America

- Free comprehensive eye exams and up to a year of care for eligible older adults or those at risk for eye disease.

### Possible Direct Financial Assistance / Discount Programs for scleral lenses

#### 1. BostonSight FitAssist Program

- Who it helps: Patients in financial need who require scleral lenses.
- What it does: BostonSight's FitAssist program provides free scleral lens fit vouchers that participating eye care practitioners can give to low-income or Medicaid patients. These vouchers cover the fitting cost, making lenses more affordable.
- How it works: Your eye doctor must be part of the BostonSight SCLERAL network and can apply the voucher when fitting you.

 **Note:** FitAssist covers the fitting charge; it may not cover all costs (e.g., shipping or special coatings), but it can significantly reduce the upfront expense.

#### 2. Visionary Optics SIGHTSUPPORT Program

- Who it helps: Patients facing financial hardship (low income, job loss, uninsured, etc.).
- What it does: Offers financial support or credits toward scleral lenses from Visionary Optics. Requirements are based on individual hardship.
- How to access: Your eye care provider submits a SIGHTSUPPORT application on your behalf.

#### 3. The Angel Eyes Foundation

- Who it helps: People diagnosed with keratoconus and financial need.
- What it does: A charitable org that assists with specialty contact lens costs, including scleral lenses for qualifying applicants.
- How to apply: You must have a diagnosis, financial need, and established care with a provider; the foundation contacts your provider and may help cover part or all the cost.

#### 4. ScleralsforAll (Nonprofit Advocacy & Support)

- Mission: Reduce barriers to scleral lens access and help people with insurance navigation, discounts, and resources. They may be able to connect you to financial support or reduced-cost services through partnerships.
- Contacting them may help you find local clinicians offering discounts or assistance.

#### Insurance & Other Coverage Considerations

##### Medicare / Medical Insurance

Insurance often *doesn't* cover scleral lenses under routine vision benefits, but:

- Medicare Part B may cover them if they are *medically necessary* (e.g., for corneal disease or severe dry eye) and prescribed by a doctor.
- Some employer vision plans or medical plans can cover scleral lenses as medically necessary contact lenses — for example, special Humana individual plans (according to patient experiences).
- Vision insurance like VSP may cover medically necessary lenses depending on the policy, but coverage varies.

##### State & Community Assistance

General eye care assistance programs in your state might help with parts of the cost — these include volunteer clinics and nonprofit programs that assist with exams and corrective lenses. Ask a social worker or optometrist for local options.

##### Possible Assistance for Serum Drops

there are a few assistance options and approaches that people in the U.S. can explore to help reduce the *high out-of-pocket cost* of custom serum eye drops (autologous serum tears) used for managing ocular GVHD and severe dry eye — even though specific large national programs like drug copay cards don't typically exist for these compounded biologic drops. Most support comes through nonprofits, sliding-scale programs, and broader medical financial assistance resources.

#### Clinic / Nonprofit Assistance Programs

##### 1. Beauty of Sight – Serum Tears Assistance Program

- This nonprofit organization provides free autologous serum eye drops to patients who meet income eligibility requirements.
- They created this program because most insurance plans (including Medicare/Medicaid) *rarely cover serum tears*, leaving patients to pay out-of-pocket.
- Eligible patients complete an application and provide proof of income; if approved, they receive a 3-month supply at no cost.

👉 This is one of the few specific programs for serum tears available and can significantly reduce costs if you qualify.

### 💡 General Financial/Medication Assistance Resources

Although not specific to serum tears, these general medical financial support programs may help cover related costs — including compounding fees or associated medical visits:

#### 2. Patient Advocate Foundation

- Offers case management, help negotiating medical bills, and financial aid for people with chronic, serious health conditions (which could include ocular GVHD).
- They can assist with appeals to insurance for coverage of medically necessary treatments and help reduce out-of-pocket expenses.

#### 3. HealthWell Foundation

- Provides financial assistance for prescription medications, copays, deductibles, and premiums for eligible patients.
- Availability may vary and is dependent on current funding and covered disease categories.

#### 4. PAN Foundation & Good Days

- These organizations help with prescription drug and treatment costs for patients who meet certain income requirements.
- While they usually focus on branded medications, they may help support ancillary costs (e.g., related to your ocular care overall).

#### 5. NeedyMeds

- A database of patient assistance programs and prescription savings that can be searched for relevant help, including compounded medications.

👉 For many of these, a physician's letter documenting medical necessity can help bolster applications or appeals with insurers.

## 🏠 Tips to Reduce Cost or Get Coverage

### Insurance Appeals and Medical Necessity Requests

- Ask your eye doctor to write a letter of medical necessity explaining why serum tears are essential for your ocular GVHD and why less expensive alternatives aren't adequate.
- Submit this with an appeal to your insurance carrier — some people report *occasional success getting partial coverage* through persistent appeals (even though it's uncommon).

### Talk With Your Doctor or Clinic's Billing/Social Work Team

- Many clinics have social workers or financial counselors who can identify local programs, sliding-scale services, or institutional financial aid not widely advertised.

### Check Local Nonprofits and Eye Banks

- Some regional eye banks or vision foundations produce serum tears at reduced cost and may offer income-based discounts; not all have formal assistance programs, but they often help patients struggling financially.

## 🌱 Tips to Improve Your Chances of Assistance

1. Talk with your eye care provider or clinic social worker: They often know about manufacturer programs and can help apply on your behalf.
2. Ask about FitAssist vouchers or SIGHTSUPPORT at your clinic.
3. Check nonprofit assistance programs like The Angel Eyes Foundation and local vision charity groups.
4. Explore insurance plans that cover medically necessary contact lenses if you're eligible to enroll.

### **Tips for Applying**

- **Work with a social worker or patient navigator** at your transplant center — they often know what programs you qualify for and can help submit applications on your behalf.
- **Check income and insurance requirements** — many programs focus on underinsured or low-income patients.
- **Document all medical and non-medical expenses** (bills, prescriptions, travel receipts) — this strengthens grant applications.