



IHSS

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
TRAINING ACADEMY

A PROJECT OF SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Share-of-Cost

What is a Share-of-Cost?

Most people receive IHSS as a part of their Medi-Cal benefits. Depending on the amount of income received, some people must agree to pay a certain amount each month toward their Medi-Cal expenses, before Medi-Cal will pay. The money that must be paid before Medi-Cal will pay is called a Share-of-Cost (SOC). The SOC allows a person with income above the allowed amount to receive IHSS if he/she agrees to pay the SOC. Your SOC may be paid to your IHSS provider, a pharmacy, doctor's office, or when purchasing other medical services or goods.

How does the Share-of-Cost Work?

You will pay your share to the provider when you receive an "Explanation of Share-of-Cost" letter that identifies the amount of the SOC to be paid that pay period. The SOC amount will also appear on your provider's timesheet under "Share-of-Cost Liability." The amount you need to pay your provider may change each pay period, depending on whether you have paid your SOC for other medical expenses before the timesheet is processed each pay period. If you have more than one IHSS provider, you will not be able to choose which provider your SOC is paid to. Any SOC that you have not paid will be subtracted from the first IHSS provider's timesheet that is processed by the county.

If you or your provider have questions about the SOC, contact your county IHSS or Public Authority office.

Here are some examples of how Share-of-Cost works:

Example 1:

Mrs. Smith has a SOC of \$200 for the month of June.	\$200
She sees her doctor on the 5th and pays \$50 at the doctor's office.	-\$50
She fills a prescription on the 6th and pays \$60 at the pharmacy.	-\$60
The total amount Mrs. Smith has paid toward her SOC is \$110 (\$50 + \$60).	\$110
When Mrs. Smith's provider submits his timesheet on the 16th, Mrs. Smith has a remaining SOC balance of \$90 (\$200 – \$110).	\$90
The State will deduct \$90 from her provider's paycheck.	
Mrs. Smith will need to pay her IHSS provider/employee \$90.	\$90

Example 2:

Mr. Lee has a SOC of \$100 for the month of June.	\$100
He sees his doctor on the 5th and pays \$75 at the doctor's office.	-\$75
He fills a prescription on the 6th and pays \$25 at the pharmacy.	-\$25
The total amount of Mr. Lee's expenses is \$100 (\$75 + \$25).	\$100
Mr. Lee has met his SOC for the month.	\$0
Mr. Lee's provider submits her timesheet on the 16th.	
The State will pay for all of the authorized hours worked in June, and Mr. Lee will not have to pay any money to his IHSS provider.	\$0