



Program Overview

United Way for Greater Austin (UW) works in the areas of Health, Education and Financial Stability to achieve our mission of bringing people, ideas and resources together to fight poverty in our community. UW accomplishes our work through direct program implementation, granting funds to other organizations, and bringing together community coalitions to effect change.

In 2022, UW became the home for Addressing Cancer Together (ACT), an initiative to establish a *regional cancer care network* for uninsured people who are not able to access preventive screenings, diagnostics and treatment in Williamson, Hays and Bastrop counties. Starting with breast cancer, ACT aims to shift the breast cancer diagnosis paradigm by identifying cancers at earlier stages with expanded community outreach, mammogram screenings, biopsies, and treatment to increase survival rates and reduce the burden of healthcare costs on individuals, families and communities.

ACT assists uninsured individuals living at or below 250% of the federal poverty guideline. The ACT model assumes that, when possible, other resources (BBCS, MBCC, other available funds) have been explored/applied first for the patient before requesting ACT funding.

United Way contracts with providers and pays an agreed upon rate for services for individuals who meet eligibility guidelines. ACT also uses financial assistance programs to reduce patient cost when an agreement to pay is not in place.

ACT plans to support patients to enroll in health insurance plans and pay premiums on their behalf for up to two years. By creating access to insurance, patient cost will be reduced for the program while increasing access to more services for patients.

ACT seeks to engage all facets of the Central Texas health ecosystem including FQHCs, private providers, hospital systems, as well as community, city, and county leaders, to provide a solution that can be efficiently and equitably distributed across the ecosystem.

ACT was founded due to the alarming statistics that **cancer is the #1 killer in Central Texas**, that uninsured patients are 6X more likely to be diagnosed with cancers which are identified in late stages, and that the five-year life expectancy of Stage 4 breast cancer is just 27% (compared to 99% life expectancy for Stage 1 breast cancer).

UW is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Initial support for ACT comes from the Shivers Cancer Foundation and all services are supported by American Rescue Plan Act funds awarded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury via local government. ACT reserves the right to monitor its available budget and may adjust the criteria for new patients accepted based on available funds.

ACT FAQ

What are the Eligibility Criteria for ACT?

CRITERIA	SCREENING ELIGIBILITY	DIAGNOSTICS ELIGIBILITY
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 40: if physician sees patient as high risk and orders screening OR an assessment using Pedigree Assessment Tool or similar administered by a trained professional resulting in high risk score for cancer. Age 40-74: anyone 	Any age
County Residence verified with reliable tool	Resident of Bastrop, Hays, or Williamson	Resident of Bastrop, Hays, or Williamson
Income at or below 250% FPL*	Household income at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.	Household income at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.
Insurance status Uninsured	Patient must be uninsured and not eligible for other resources, including marketplace insurance	Patient must be uninsured and not eligible for other resources, including marketplace insurance.
Gender	Women only	Women only

* Note: all financial assets must be considered to qualify for hospital charity care.

CRITERIA	TREATMENT ELIGIBILITY
Age	Any age
County Residence	Resident of Bastrop, Hays, or Williamson <i>Note: Funding for each county is only for residents of that county. ACT only accepts patients who are verified residents of Bastrop, Hays and Williamson counties.</i>
Income at or below 250% FPL*	Household income at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. <i>*Note: all financial assets must be considered to qualify for hospital charity care for patients needing surgery.</i>
Insurance status Uninsured	Patient must be uninsured and not eligible for other resources, including insurance on the marketplace
Gender	Any gender



Does ACT have an asset test?

The ACT program does not have an asset test. However, hospital services for an ACT patient requiring surgery are currently accessed through patient assistance programs. Therefore, the patient must meet the hospital's asset test to qualify for full or partial assistance for hospital services.

Does ACT pay for other types of care?

No. ACT only pays for breast cancer-related services. ACT does not currently cover any type of reconstructive surgery.

Is ACT health insurance?

No. ACT is a charitable program, not insurance.

ACT plans to help patients enroll in health insurance plans and pay premiums on their behalf. We are still working on this part of the program.

How are patients referred to ACT?

Currently, ACT accepts patients that are screened by organizations that are screening for Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening funds and Medicaid for Breast and Cervical Cancer. In Central Texas this includes Community Action Inc. of Central Texas and Lone Star Circle of Care. Feel free to reach out to ACTinfo@uwatx.org or call 737-225-3401 to learn more.