



## AiRS Applicant FAQ's

**My income is slightly more than the income requirements listed on the AiRS application. Can I still apply?**

Yes, you may apply. Applicants whose income exceeds the income requirements must demonstrate substantial financial hardship to be considered for a grant award.

**Do you accept applications from women outside of the United States?**

We are sorry, but at this time we only accept applicants from residents of the United States.

**Do you reimburse for surgeries that have already been performed?**

Unfortunately, we are not able to reimburse patients directly or for surgeries already performed. Grant awards are made directly to providers prior to surgery. We may help with past reconstructive surgeries within the previous 3 months of application submission if insurance has processed and detailed statement balances are uploaded.

**Do you pay for breast reconstruction if I choose to use a surgeon out of my insurance network?**

Possibly. We prefer that surgeons are used in-network to reduce expenses. If there is not a surgeon near you that is in network or there are other extenuating circumstances, we will consider your grant request.

**Do you help with medical bills such as radiation, chemo, imaging, and other testing?**

AiRS' mission is to help women with breast reconstruction due to mastectomy, therefore, we cannot assist with other medical bills not related to breast reconstruction.

**I have Medicaid but cannot find a provider in my area for surgery. Can AiRS help?**

Possibly. We prefer to use Medicaid providers first when they are available. If there is not a qualified Medicaid provider within reasonable distance to where you live, you may apply and AiRS will determine if we are able to help you.

**I have not had breast cancer but I need help with my breast implants. Would you consider helping me?**

At this time we can only accept applications from women diagnosed with breast cancer or who tested positive for the BRCA breast cancer gene and who require mastectomy.

**I had a mastectomy and reconstruction several years ago and now require additional surgery. Can I apply?**

Yes, you may apply and we will consider helping in case of medical necessity. We do not help for surgery which is considered elective or cosmetic.

**Do you accept applications from immigrants without documentation?**

Applications are accepted despite citizenship status.

**I have insurance but I cannot afford to meet my co-pay or out-of-pocket for breast reconstruction after mastectomy. Can I apply?**

Yes, AiRS regularly helps insured applicants with full or partial grant award for co-pays relating to breast reconstruction.

**How long will it take to review my grant application?**

Processing and approval of applications can take between 14-30 days. Please allow 30-60 days prior to surgery for approval. If rare cases, we will consider applications submitted outside of this window.

**I don't need financial assistance, but I would like an advocate mentor to help me through the emotional journey of breast reconstruction. Can I request an advocate?**

Yes, AiRS mission is to Advocate, Educate, and support women. Whether you need an advocate to talk to, have questions about reconstruction, or need a referral, we are here to help.

**Is there a list of board certified breast reconstruction surgeons?**

Yes. [The American Society of Plastic Surgeons](#) provides a search by location.

**Do you help with hotels or lodging prior to surgery?**

The American Cancer Society, in cooperation with hotels across the country, provide overnight accommodations for cancer patients prior to surgery. Call the ACS at 1-800-227-2345 to request hotel lodging.

**Do you assist with living expenses or transportation to and from medical appointments?**

AiRS' mission is specifically to assist with breast reconstruction and is not able to help with living expenses or transportation. You can find a list of resources on our website under [Resources/Education](#).