

# James "Tiger" Morton Catastrophic Illness Commission

The James "Tiger" Morton Catastrophic Illness Commission (JTMCI) assists West Virginia residents with life-saving care when death is imminent and all other resources are exhausted. The six commission members are Governor appointed residents from across the state. The Commission is under the umbrella of the West Virginia Department of Human Services.

Created in 1999 by the WV Legislature, the JTMCI was dedicated to the memory of James "Tiger" Morton (1937 - 2000). Tiger used his persuasive skills to enlist the help of others and even used his own money to make sure people in need of life-saving treatment were provided the healthcare and related travel they needed.

Tiger was a:

- Helper of countless people in dire need of medical and personal assistance;
- Respected ombudsman and legislative liaison; and a
- Compassionate and caring friend.

# James "Tiger" Morton Catastrophic Illness Commission



**100 Dee Drive  
Charleston, WV 25311**

**To complete an application over  
the phone please call:**

**304-558-9027**

**Collect calls are accepted.**

**[www.wvdhhr.org/cic](http://www.wvdhhr.org/cic)**

**[dohsjtmcic@wv.gov](mailto:dohsjtmcic@wv.gov)**



**JAMES "TIGER" MORTON  
CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS  
COMMISSION**

**Providing life-saving treatment  
and related travel for life  
threatening illnesses once all  
resources are exhausted.**

**304-558-9027**

## Eligibility

To be eligible for assistance funds, an applicant must meet the following guidelines:

- Be a West Virginia resident.
- Have a condition that meets the definition of Catastrophic Illness, which means there is imminent risk of death if assistance does not occur.
- Have exhausted all other resources, including Medicaid and Hill-Burton Funds.

Before receiving assistance from JTMCIIC, an eligible applicant must apply for and be denied by Medicaid and apply for insurance coverage through the Marketplace Exchange program of the Affordable Care Act.

JTMCIIC makes payment to a medical provider for service through the West Virginia Medicaid program. Travel reimbursements are made to a third-party provider.

ALL services MUST be preauthorized by the JTMCIIC Executive Director.

## Covered Expenses

JTMCIIC has specific parameters for distribution of funds. Examples of covered expenses are:

- Proven and accepted medical procedures.
- Transportation for the approved medical procedure to medical facilities for patient and one caretaker.
- Medicine that prevents rejection and/or reoccurrence of life-threatening illness.

There are specific expenses that are not covered by JTMCIIC. A few examples are:

- Maintenance for acute prescriptions.
- Durable medical equipment  
Experimental treatments, procedures, and therapies.
- Home modifications or remodeling.

Past due medicals bills are not considered for payment, except for charges no more than one month prior to application for services.

## How to Apply

The first step is to call 304-558-9027. An application will be taken over the phone and a decision will usually be made within one week. Applications are accepted directly from a potential client; however, involvement from a medical facility is encouraged.

## Funding and Donations

JTMCIIC receives funding from the West Virginia Legislature. As funding is limited, it is critical to receive private and corporate donations to ensure that West Virginians who are most vulnerable can receive lifesaving medical and travel assistance.

Because JTMCIIC is a 170(c)1 governmental entity with a charitable purpose, donations are tax deductible for both state and federal returns. You can donate at [www.wvdhhr.org/cic](http://www.wvdhhr.org/cic) or mail your check to the address on this brochure. Call 304-558-9027 to discuss gifts of property, stocks, bequests and grant options.

Your support is greatly appreciated!