

Emergency Financial Assistance Funds

Important Note

Do you receive any needs-based benefits (SSI, TAFDC, SNAP, housing subsidies, etc.)? If so, **please get advice from a legal service agency before applying** for any of these programs to learn how they may affect your benefits.

Find your local legal service agency (free or low-cost if you qualify): masslrf.org/en/home

Local Community Action Program

Offers help in locating resources for financial assistance with rent, utilities, and food.

Find your local Community Action Program: masscap.org/agencies/

Modest Needs

Offers short-term financial assistance to low-income working individuals and families in temporary crisis. Offers two types of grants:

- **Homecoming Heroes Grant:** for veterans transitioning from overseas deployment to civilian life
- **Self-Sufficiency Grant:** for normally self-sufficient, low-income households

You must be a legal resident of the US or Canada to apply. Learn more and apply: modestneeds.org.

The Salvation Army

Provides emergency financial assistance to help with rent and utilities. You do not have to be a citizen to apply. Search for the Salvation Army closest to you: salvationarmyusa.org.

Jewish Family and Children's Services

Provides rent and utilities assistance to greater Boston area residents, regardless of religion or affiliation. Call 781-647-JFCS (5327)

Catholic Charities

Provides rent and utility assistance. Search for the Catholic Charities closest to you: catholiccharitiesusa.org.

The United Way

Provides information and a referral. Call 211 or visit: unitedwaymassbay.org/

Your City or Town

Contact your city or town to see if they offer emergency assistance. MA City/Town search: mass.gov/lists/massachusetts-city-and-town-websites

Disease or Disability-Specific Funds

There may be foundations that provide funds for people with your condition. Please consult your social worker for help locating any appropriate resources.

Additional Agencies

Also, try calling local religious organizations and local service groups such as the Elks, Jaycees, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Lions and Rotary clubs.

Funds for Greater Boston Residents

The Lend a Hand Society – for low-income residents of Greater Boston

Provides one-time emergency grants. **Social service advocates must apply on behalf of the person in need** by submitting a cover letter and the Agency Client Referral Form:

lah.dreamhosters.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Agency-Client-Referral-Form.pdf.

Please mail requests. More information: lend-a-hand-society.org.

The SWAN Society – for elder single, divorced, or widowed women

Provides one-time, emergency grants to single, divorced or widowed women 65 and over who live within a **25-mile radius of Boston**. **Requires a professional to submit the application**. The application is online at: swansocietyboston.org/individual-grants

More information: swansocietyboston.org or call 617-918-7404

Rogerson Communities Elder Assistance Fund – for Boston elders

Helps with **one-time** extraordinary expenses to Boston residents **aged 62 or older (or 55 or older and disabled)**.

- Supplemental housing support due to fire, weather-related damage, moving, etc.
- Health-related equipment (air conditioner, dentures, prescriptions, etc.)
- **Cannot** assist with any form of rental assistance or utility bills (phone, gas, or electric).
- Requires a professional letter of support.

For more information and to apply, contact 617-327-1503 and ask for Resident Services Coordinator Danaejah Buissereth.

Funds for Other Massachusetts Residents

Cape Cod Times Needy Fund

Provides one-time emergency assistance to Cape Cod residents for food, rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, medical costs and other basic expenses. Call 508-778-5661 or 800-422-1446.

Personal Fundraising

These websites allow people to ask family, friends, and even strangers for help. Most charge a fee of about 3-5% of the proceeds. **Please carefully read the fee schedules and other terms of service for these sites.**

Some popular sites:

- GoFundMe.com - Does not charge percentage fees but does charge processing fees from services like PayPal.
- GoGetFunding.com
- Indiegogo.com
- Kickstarter.com