

**Funeral and Burial Expanses- Financial Assistance**

**Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)**

**Eligibility**- **One does NOT need to have been receiving benefits from DTA to qualify. There are no immigration status requirements.** The assets of both the deceased and any legally responsible next of kin (spouse, parent of a minor child) will be considered. The request must be made within six months of the date of death. Someone found dead whose identity is unknown may qualify.

**Benefit**- DTA will pay a **maximum** of $1,100 for the funeral and final disposition. The **total** expense must not exceed $3,500. All assets of the deceased and legally responsible next of kin (spouse or parent of a minor child) will be taken into consideration and subtracted from the full amount of the bill (not to exceed $3,500). DTA will pay the difference or $1,100, whichever is less, to the funeral director.

This is a fund of last resort; DTA will investigate available assets and other payment sources. If payment is made, DTA has preferred claims for reimbursement against the estate and resources, if any.

##### **What does the Funeral Benefit Cover?**

Since the total expenses cannot exceed $3,500, typically these funds are used towards cremation. Many funeral homes will work with families to provide a dignified and meaningful experience within the program’s limits. (Also see The Lazarus Ministry – below.)

**How to Access** - **contact a funeral home. Please note that many funeral homes do not participate with this program.** We encourage you to ask before deciding to use a particular home. A participating funeral home can help you create a plan for final disposition that does not exceed the $3,500 limit. When you apply for this payment assistance, you must owe an outstanding balance.

**Application**- If the deceased was receiving TAFDC or EAEDC benefits or had a TAFDC or EAEDC application pending, no additional application is needed, just notify the DTA case manager.

Otherwise, you or a medical examiner should complete the application:  [https://www.mass.gov/doc/application-for-funeral-and-final-disposition-benefit-ffd-1/download.](%20https://www.mass.gov/doc/application-for-funeral-and-final-disposition-benefit-ffd-1/download.%20)  A funeral director may complete the application only if no relative, friend or medical examiner is able to do so.

**For More Information**- <https://www.mass.gov/funeral-and-burial-payment-assistance>

**The Lazarus Ministry**

(Greater Boston)

**The Lazarus Ministry at St. Anthony Shrine**

St. Anthony Shrine, located at 100 Arch Street, Boston MA 02110, provides funeral services and burials for the homeless, the poor, and those who die alone and abandoned in Greater Boston. Open to ALL who are truly in need, no matter their faith or standing in life.

St. Anthony Shrine offers its services free of charge, including its facilities, Mass of Christian Burial and meeting room space for funeral luncheons. In addition, the Shrine provides graves for those who would otherwise be buried in a pauper’s grave, and pays for the cost of opening and closing the grave before and after burial. Other services may include clothing for the deceased and families, flowers and continued support for family and friends.

**More Information**

<https://stanthonyshrine.org/ministries/lazarus-ministry/> or contact Julie Ogden at 617-542-6440 Ext. 146 to request a Lazarus Ministry brochure.

**Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts**

(JCAM)

**Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts (JCAM)**

JCAM administers an indigent burial fund through the generosity of an anonymous donor to provide funeral/burial support for Jewish families in need. The fund is limited and only available for JCAM cemeteries.

**Eligibility**

The deceased must have no family, no funds, be destitute, and Jewish.

**What does the Funeral Benefit Cover?**

JCAM will provide the burial ground, opening and closing of the grave, loaming and reseeding of the gravesite, perpetual care of the cemetery, and a granite marker with the deceased’s name and date deceased. A JCAM representative will be present at the burial and offer the appropriate prayers for a dignified Jewish burial. The casket is not provided. Most Jewish funeral homes will have funds to offer a casket. JCAM asks if you work with a non-Jewish funeral home, that the deceased is not embalmed.

**How to Access** – Please contact Stan Kaplan, JCAM Executive Director at 617-244-6509.

<https://www.jcam.org/>