

## 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](https://masslrf.org/en/home)

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### 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/](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://catholiccharitiesusa.org).

### The United Way

Provides information and a referral. Call 211 or visit: [unitedwaymassbay.org/](https://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](https://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](http://lah.dreamhosters.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Agency-Client-Referral-Form.pdf).

**Please mail requests.** More information: [lend-a-hand-society.org](http://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](http://swansocietyboston.org/individual-grants)

More information: [swansocietyboston.org](http://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](http://GoFundMe.com) - Does not charge percentage fees but does charge processing fees from services like PayPal.
- [GoGetFunding.com](http://GoGetFunding.com)
- [Indiegogo.com](http://Indiegogo.com)
- [Kickstarter.com](http://Kickstarter.com)