



Community Services Agency

of the

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO



AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership



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2025 CSA Emergency Assistance Fund Contributions Now Due

19 December 2024

Dear Local Union President:

The CSA Emergency Assistance Fund exists to help your members with emergency financial needs. **Every year, if your local would like your members to be eligible for assistance, YOUR LOCAL MUST MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND OF AT LEAST \$400.** Since we can help one member with up to \$400, any contribution above this amount is greatly appreciated!

Here is how the Fund works:

1. To be eligible, the member must be from a local union that is affiliated, and in good standing with the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, and/or the NoVA Labor Federation and has contributed at least \$400 each year to the fund (Please make check payable to the Community Services Agency and mail to address above).
2. The member has been referred by the local union on the attached referral form provided by CSA.
3. The member has an emergency need for assistance through no fault of their own.

Due to high need, members can access the fund once, not once per year, and assistance is capped at \$400.00. Checks are made payable to a creditor only, not to the member. CSA works with members to exhaust all other sources of funds, and to provide financial counseling as needed.

Whether or not your local participates in the Emergency Assistance Fund, members can still be referred to CSA for general information and referral. Attached, please find an updated referral form, and the facts about the Fund. Please share it with your staff representatives.

For questions, please call 202 974-8226 or email Sigute Meilus, Director at smeilus@dclabor.org.

United Way/DC One Fund
Designation Number
8253
Combined Federal
Campaign Number 19579
Maryland Charity
Campaign Number 9320

Community Services Agency
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND REFERRAL FORM
(Please duplicate as needed.)

Our local would like to refer the following **UNION MEMBER** to the Community Services Agency for emergency assistance: *(Please Print)*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Cell) _____ (HM) _____ (WK) _____

Email _____

This member is currently having problems with:

Food _____

Rent _____

Mortgage _____

Utilities _____

Medical Bills _____

Child Support _____

Other _____

Local Union _____

Representative making referral _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Our local has provided the following assistance (if any) _____

Please fax this form with any past due bill copies to 202 974-8152 or email to smeilus@dclabor.org.

Please Note: Emergency Assistance funds are on an “as available” basis only, and for emergency needs only due to hardships.

Facts About CSA's Emergency Assistance Fund

CSA's Emergency Assistance Fund is designed to help union members with financial crises which they are experiencing **through no fault of their own**. Resources for the fund are generated through the annual fundraising events, and through contributions of local unions that would like their members to be eligible for assistance. Each year we are able to help approximately 300 families with emergency needs.

Eligibility- you **MAY** be eligible for assistance if your local union is an affiliate of the Metropolitan Washington or NoVA Labor Federation **AND** you have an emergency need which can be documented, and the local has forwarded a referral form for you.

Please note: No one is entitled to funds or to any particular amount of funds. The fund's ability to help is dependent on your situation and the amount of money in the fund. The fund is able to help members **ONCE**, not once per year.

You will need to provide CSA with:

- 1- Information about the nature of your problem and why you are having that problem.
- 2- Documents verifying financial need including utility cut-off notices, landlord-tenant action if behind in rent, notices from lenders if behind in mortgage, information about household income, etc. These can be faxed to 202-974-8152 or emailed to smeilus@dclabor.org. For questions call 202 974-8226.
- 3- Information about any help you have received from other social services organizations, or where you have sought additional help.
- 4- If you have some, but not all, of the funds you need, we will need to see a money order made payable to the creditor for your amount- we cannot accept copies of handwritten checks.

CSA is UNABLE to help if:

- 1- The funds from CSA plus whatever other funds you may have or which we can identify from other agencies will not solve the problem. For example, if gas has been cut-off, and we cannot put together the total amount to get it turned back on, the fund cannot help.
- 2- Bills are not in your name.
- 3- The problem is not of an emergency nature.
- 4- **PLEASE NOTE-** CSA will NOT pay cable TV bills and we may not pay phone bills that are "bundled" and include computer, cable or other TV services, credit card payments, tax payments or similar non-emergency expenses.