

Community Sharing Fund

Of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

Information for Referring Agencies

The purpose of Community Sharing Fund is to provide funding to individual and families with verifiable emergency needs when other services or funds are unavailable. Grants are approved for rent, damage deposit, utility costs, medical expenses, childcare, transportation and other critical needs.

Criteria for Funding

- The applicant is a resident of Dakota, Ramsey or Washington County, Minnesota for at least 30 days.
- The request must be a health and human services related need.
- The applicant has not received a grant from Community Sharing Fund within the last 18 months.
- No other member of the applicant's household has received a grant from Community Sharing Fund in the last 18 months.
- The need has been created by an unforeseen event that has resulted in an emergency.
- Community Sharing Fund is a resource of last resort. Eligibility for assistance from other funds and the family's own resources are considered.
- The grant will solve a problem that is not expected to reoccur in the near future.
- If the emergency has resulted from a resolvable underlying issue, the grant will be approved only if the referring organization can verify that corrective action has been taken.
- Grant amounts range from \$50 to \$750.

Ineligible Requests

Community Sharing Fund does not fund attorney fees or travel costs and other expenses related to child custody issues.

Requests are not approved for payment of bail, traffic tickets and fines or other expenses related to illegal activities.

Requests are not approved for burial or funeral expenses.

How to Use Community Sharing Fund

Application

Requests to Community Sharing Fund on behalf of individual clients are [online](#). New Users will need to register if you do not have a Login ID and password. Caseworkers are encouraged to contact the Fund administrator with questions regarding the appropriateness of a request. You may be referred to other community resources.

Referrals

Clients should not be referred directly to Community Sharing Fund. Community Sharing Fund relies on agency staff to gather necessary background information and ensure that Fund criteria have been met. Direct referrals may complicate matters for clients because they will be referred back to a social worker in a human service agency.

Application Information

When submitting an application, the caseworker must submit the following information:

- Your name and the name of your organization.
- A brief account of the current crisis, describing why it is an emergency, what precipitated the crisis, what other attempts have been made to solve the problem and why it is unlikely to reoccur.
- The amount requested and the basis of determination.
- The client's name, address (including county and zip code), age, racial or ethnic group, number of dependents, monthly income, source of income and a breakdown of monthly expenditures.

Funding Decisions

Once staff has received the application, please allow up to two business days for staff to review the application and contact the caseworker. Decisions on grants are usually made within a week from when the application is received.

Payment of Grants

Cash grants are **not** made to clients. Community Sharing Fund grants are payable to referring agencies [501(c)(3) organizations or government agencies] for use as specified in the grant agreement. Payments to vendors (landlord, utility company, etc.) are made by the referring agencies.

Who to Contact

For more information, or to apply, visit communitysharingfund.org or contact:

Community Sharing Fund
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
101 Fifth Street East, Suite 2400
St. Paul, MN 55101-1800
Phone: 651.325.4260