

Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians

Formed in 1989, the Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians (EFC) is an alliance of organizations that coordinates fund-raising efforts and collectively provides emergency assistance to low-income older adults.

Membership is open to organizations that serve older adults and their families. Members of the Emergency Fund Coalition participate in fundraising activities. Members receive up to \$1,000 additional in aid availability and are able to make more frequent referrals.

To learn more about becoming an EFC member, contact Rick Spector, PCA's Community Relations Director, at 215-765-9000, ext. 4247.

About PCA

One of the region's largest non-profit organizations, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) was established in 1973 to serve as the Area Agency on Aging for Philadelphia. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for Philadelphians who are older or who have disabilities and to assist them in achieving optimum levels of health, independence, and productivity.

Funded in part by the federal Older Americans Act, Medical Assistance, and the Pennsylvania Lottery, all channeled through the state Department of Aging, PCA has been a proud member of Philadelphia's health and human services community for 30 years.

For more information about PCA's services, call the PCA Helpline at 215-765-9040.

Last Updated: January 2008



**Emergency Fund for Older Philadelphians
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging**
642 N. Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19130-3409
PCA Helpline: 215-765-9040
Fax: 215-765-9066
Website: www.pca cares.org

Current EFC Members

Standing Member:

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging

Advisory Members:

Center In The Park

*Mayor's Commission on
Services to the Aging*

Utility Emergency Services Fund

Regular Members:

AGAPE African Senior Citizens Center

Albert Einstein Medical Center

*Cambodian American Senior
Association, Inc. (CASA)*

*Center for Advocacy for the Rights
and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)*

The Consortium, Inc.

*Haddington Multi-Services
for Older Adults, Inc.*

Jewish Community Centers

*Jewish Family and Children's Service
of Greater Philadelphia*

*Liberty Lutheran Services/Lutheran
Children and Family Services*

North City Congress

Olde Kensington

Redevelopment Corporation

Philadelphia Senior Center

Philip Jaisohn Memorial Center

Polish American Social Services

The Salvation Army

SeniorLAW Center

Shepard Senior Center

Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance

Associations Coalition, Inc.



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Coordinated by
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA)

Referral Process and Eligibility Guidelines

Referrals are accepted only from recognized social agencies and the clergy and can be made by calling the PCA Helpline at 215-765-9040, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Applicants may receive no more than \$150 assistance or 100 gallons of heating oil per 12 months from the Emergency Fund.

Callers should have the following information available when making a referral:

- Client's name, age, address, telephone number, & income (including spouse's income);
- Vendor name; and Verification that other resources have been exhausted.

Residence/Age/Income

Philadelphia residents, 60+ years old, whose income is within 175% of poverty.

The monthly income ceiling for a single person is \$1,429, and for a couple is \$1,925.

They must have exhausted all other resources.

Meeting Basic Needs

Low-income elderly often are unable to provide for their most basic needs - shelter, food, and health care. The need for financial assistance to low-income older persons is especially great in Philadelphia. Among the 10 largest cities in the country, Philadelphia has the highest percentage of persons age 65 and over, and its elderly experience poverty at a rate that exceeds that of the state and the nation.

Coordinated by Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA), the Emergency Fund is a crisis assistance program for low-income older Philadelphians.

A Record of Caring

From July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007, 984 households were assisted, totaling \$125,215.

Fifty-five percent of the grants were for energy/utilities, 24% were for emergency food, and 21% were for general needs, including medical expenses.

In addition, Emergency Fund grants assisted victims of fire, theft, and financial exploitation; helped with emergency moving expenses; and made possible emergency housing repairs and replacement of essential items like hot water heaters and stoves.

85 organizations made referrals to the Emergency Fund, including PCA and other EFC members; senior centers; assisted living facilities and senior housing sites; legal services and advocacy organizations; hospitals, home health agencies, and other health care providers; a number of City agencies; energy assistance programs; community development corporations; and churches.

Types of Grants



- **Emergency General Need**
For all non fuel-utility and non-food requests

for which there is no reimbursement, such as eyeglasses, hearing aides, other medical equipment, medications, small home repairs, prevention of suspension or restoration of telephone service, emergency rent and mortgage expense, clothing, and orthopedic shoes.

- **Emergency Fuel-Utility Assistance**
Assistance is provided to applicants who have a utility shut-off, or whose utilities will be shut-off in five working days or less (must have first applied to LIHEAP/CRISIS and Utility Emergency Services Fund). Also, oil is delivered to eligible clients whose supply is depleted or near exhaustion.

- **Emergency Food**
Client may be referred who is out of food for any legitimate reason, i.e., income exhausted on heating bills, home repairs, income check lost or stolen, or other unusual circumstances. Benefit is \$75 per one senior in the home, \$100 for two, or \$125 for three.

EMERGENCY FUND SUPPORTERS

Individual donors are a mainstay of the program, which also receives support from area funding sources, including:

- Astra Zenaca
- Citizens Charitable Fund
- Connelly Foundation
- Danellie Foundation
- Glaxo Smith Kline
- Hartford Customer Services Group
- The Hassel Foundation
- Health Partners
- Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial
- Independence Blue Cross
- The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- Lincoln Financial Group
- Sara Long Charity Fund
- Western Assn. of Ladies for Relief & Employment of the Poor