Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians

Formed in 1989, the Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians (EFC) is an alliance of organizations that coordinates fundraising 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 EFC participate in fundraising activities 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. 5340.

About PCA

One of the region’s largest nonprofit 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 and the Pennsylvania Lottery, through the Pennsylvania Department of Aging; and by Medical Assistance, through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, PCA has been a proud member of Philadelphia’s health and human services community for more than 40 years.

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

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A Place Like Home
Albert Einstein Medical Center
BAYADA Home Health Care
Better Home Care, LLC
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)
CLARIFI
Federation Housing, Inc.
Healthy Caregiver Foundation
Home Instead Senior Care
Intercommunity Action (Center at Journey’s Way)
Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Greater Philadelphia
KleinLife
Liberty Lutheran Services/Lutheran Children’s and Family Service
Mayor’s Commission on Aging
NewCourtland
North City Congress
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
Philadelphia Senior Center
Philip Jaisohn Memorial Center
Polish American Social Services
SeniorLAW Center
Senior Helpers, Philadelphia
Unitarian Universalist House Outreach Program
Utility Emergency Services Fund

Coordinated by Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA)
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 people is especially great in Philadelphia. Among the 10 largest cities in the country, Philadelphia has the second highest percentage of people age 65 and older, 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, 2014 to June 30, 2015, 1,768 households received assistance, totaling $215,787.

67% of the dollars went for energy/utilities; 14% for emergency food; and 19% for general needs, including medical expenses.

In addition, the Emergency Fund 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.

More than 100 organizations made referrals to the Emergency Fund, including senior centers; assisted living facilities and senior housing sites; legal services and advocacy organizations; hospitals, home health agencies, and other health care providers; city agencies; energy assistance programs; community development corporations; and houses of worship.

Since the Emergency Fund’s inception in 1979, more than 26,300 households have received assistance totaling more than $3.15 million.

Referral Process and Eligibility Guidelines

Referrals are accepted only from recognized social service 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 $100 in 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 and income (including spouse’s income)
- Vendor name
- Verification that other resources have been exhausted

Who is Eligible?

- Philadelphia residents, 60+ years old.
- The monthly income ceiling for a single person is $1,716, and for a couple is $2,323 (175% of poverty).
- Individuals who have exhausted all other resources.

Types of Assistance

- Emergency General Need
  Assistance for all non-fuel/utility and non-food requests, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, other medical equipment, medications, small home repairs, prevention of suspension/ restoration of telephone service, emergency rent or mortgage, 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). 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 $50 for one senior in the home, $75 for two, or $100 for three.

Emergency Fund Supporters

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

- Albert Einstein Healthcare Network
- Alden Geriatric Consultants, Inc
- Always Best Care Senior Services
- BAYADA Home Health Care
- Becket Family Foundation
- Better Home Care, LLC
- Federation Housing, Inc.
- Gateway Health Plan
- Goodrich Foundation
- Health Partners Plans
- Healthy Caregiver Community Foundation
- Homemaker Service of the Metropolitan Area, Inc.
- Keystone VIP Choice
- Lutheran Children & Family Service
- MKM Foundation
- Penn Asian Senior Services
- Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation
- Western Association of Ladies for the Relief and Employment of the Poor