



Emergency Assistance Fund

What Is the Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF)?

For nearly a century the Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) has provided financial aid when an accident, illness, death of a loved one, disaster or other crisis strikes. Funded by the very people it helps, EAF is possible through the generous contributions of active and retired YMCA professionals.

EAF Grant Eligibility

EAF Grants of up to \$2,500 are made to active and retired Y professionals, for themselves or for their immediate family members. In order to be eligible applicants must:

- Have been employed for 6 months and in good standing with the Y prior to the submittal of a grant request; or
- Have been a member of the YMCA Alumni Association (Formerly Association of YMCA Retirees) for at least the past 6 months prior to the submittal of a grant request.

Grants are available for the following needs, with supporting documentation:

- **Medical expenses** are incurred beyond provisions of health insurance coverage or other related expenses, which result in an extreme economic hardship.
- **A catastrophic event** such as an accident, crime, etc. that results in economic distress.
- **Natural Disaster Emergency Grants** – these are \$1,000 emergency grants available up to 30 days following a documented event as long as funds are available.
- An **emergency need** that is a result of an “unforeseen event” and not from an exercise of “personal choice”.

In addition:

- Grants are available for those who meet the eligibility criteria as long as funds are available.
- A person may receive only one grant within a 12 month period.
- Grants of up to \$2,500 are awarded with the supporting documentation required to determine eligibility.
- Natural Disaster Emergency Grants are limited to \$1,000 due to the high volume of requests when they occur.
- Decisions are typically provided within 15 days from the date of application as long as additional documentation is not required.

How Do I Apply for a Grant?

- Grant applications can be initiated in two ways: by an individual employee experiencing financial hardship or by an employee on behalf of another employee.
- Applications are accepted via Y-USA’s SmartSimple online application system (<https://yusa.smartsimple.com>).
- Please send any questions to EAF@ymca.net

How Do I Donate to the Fund?

We welcome donations of all sizes and payment plans – whether it’s a one-time gift or a monthly contribution. You can scan the QR code below or [click here to donate to EAF](#)

