Stand Together: Community Response Fund Eligibility

Promise South Salt Lake and Millcreek Promise

Fund Overview

The Community Response Fund is a confidential financial assistance program created to provide one-time assistance to students and families whose stability is threatened or has been disrupted by an unforeseen emergency/crisis.

The fund relies on Millcreek Promise and Promise South Salt Lake to identify clients and verify circumstances to determine alignment with the defined funding categories and eligibility. They will also distribute funds to support students and families.

Confidentiality

Partners are asked to neither promote nor spread awareness to the public about funding, including on social media. When working with families to verify and document their emergency/crisis, use general terms when speaking about the fund's existence and potential source of help.

Funding information can be shared within the city departments and with key stakeholders.

Determining Eligibility

Eligible Clients

Families with students in the priority schools in Millcreek and South Salt Lake that are living on a fixed income with no other support (ex. public benefits, family, friends, etc.)
Priority schools: Olene Walker Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Moss Elementary, Wilson Elementary, Granite Park Junior, Cottonwood High, Utah International Charter, Kearns St. Ann

Examples:

- Families that include someone with disabilities, those whose mobility and/or ability to care for themselves are inhibited by a severe physical disability such as a spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, etc.
- Families with children establishing a new household away from domestic abuse
- Economically disadvantaged families, those without financial resources to adequately respond to an emergency or crisis

Considerations

Those seeking assistance should:

- Be financially self-sufficient prior to their emergency/crisis
- Doing everything possible to provide for themselves (and immediate family, if applicable) but are financially unable to respond to an emergency or crisis effectively
- Be employed; all able-bodied parents (as well as able bodied members of their immediate household age 16 and older, if applicable)
- Not have any type of financial resource beyond income from employment (bank accounts, savings accounts, investments, etc.)
- Have a history of maintaining stable/regular employment

Emergency/Crisis

- The situation should be unexpected, or if the situation was anticipated, not the result of the family or individual's own avoidable actions
- The situation cannot be long-term or chronic and should not have been progressing for more than three months, or in unusual circumstances, more than six months
- They must be able to demonstrate the situation is causing, or will cause, harm to them and their child(ren) (pain, imminent eviction, loss of utilities, loss of employment, loss of stability, etc.)

Funding Exclusions

- Non-emergency/non-crisis situations
- Long-term situations persisting longer than three to six months
- Ongoing support, or situations where the need for support is projected to extend beyond 90 days
- Pre-existing medical bills
- Health insurance premiums
- Outstanding debt (mortgage payments, car payments or insurance, credit card debt, payday loans, rent-to-own contracts, etc.)
- Legal expenses (attorney fees, court costs or fines)
- Education expenses (tuition, books, supplies, fees, room and board)
- Business expenses (any expense associated with a new or existing business venture)
- Disbursements to parties with conflicts of interest (employees, board members, vendors owned by or that employ a member of the recipient's immediate family)

Fund Categories

Category	Description	Eligible Expenses
Loss of Home	For a family or individual suffering the loss of their home due to a fire or natural disaster. Funds assist with costs of settling into a new location.	• Relocation/moving • Rent and/or initial deposit (up to 3 months rent; deposit counts as 1 month) • Utilities • Replacement of essential household items (towels, bedding, etc.)
Domestic Abuse	For families leaving an environment of domestic abuse, funds assist with the costs of establishing a new household.	• Relocation/moving • Rent and/or initial deposit (up to 3 months; deposit counts as 1 month) • Temporary housing costs • Utilities • Replacement of essential household items (towels, bedding, etc.)
Avoiding Homelessness	For families facing homelessness, funds prevent eviction or assist with the costs of moving to more	• Rent to avoid eviction (up to 3 months)

	affordable housing and regaining self-sufficiency. *Note: events such as sudden loss of income, death of a spouse, or loss of child support are examples of good fits. Loss of government benefits/assistance or seasonal employment income fluctuation are not good fits.* *Does not include any outstanding debt like mortgage payments.*	• Rent and/or rental deposit in more affordable housing • Childcare (for families unable to afford childcare due to a sudden loss of income)
Disabled or Disadvantaged Health	For families working in low-income employment or who have disabilities. Funds assist with costs of medical emergencies or minor medical issues. *Note: extensive and/or high-cost dental needs are often served by nonprofits that specialize in these areas.*	• Emergency medical care • Minor medical care (case-by-case) • Eyeglasses • Non-maintenance prescriptions • Certain non-cosmetic, non-routine dental work (up to $2,000)
Home Repair or Basic Needs	Assist families with home repairs or modifications needed for accessibility or purchasing basic needs. *Note: wouldn't include food needs, which can be met by food banks/pantries.* *Does not include any outstanding debt.*	• Home modification required for accessibility (wheelchair ramp, etc.) • Home repairs needed for safe conditions (furnace, plumbing, etc.) • Basic needs that are not met by other non-profits

Elements of a Successful Request

- Funding is intended to be supplemental to other funding sources. Millcreek Promise and Promise South Salt Lake will ask if they have applied for assistance with other organizations and the status of the application
- The family or individual has not previously received assistance from this fund
- The emergency/crisis matches one of the defined funding categories
- Information about the family or individual is complete, accurate, and has been verified
- There is sufficient documentation for Millcreek Promise and Promise South Salt Lake to verify the situation (ex. eviction notice, bills, work estimates from vendors, etc.)
- Approved requests provide support for one month; in exceptional situations, requests provide support for up to 3 months; most requests fall within a range of $500-$2,000

(ideally no more than $6,000 awarded to one crisis situation, can be flexible based on Millcreek Promise and Promise South Salt Lake's discretion).

Awarding Funding

Families are notified of funding that is awarded. Checks/payments go to the social service provider or vendor and not the family or individual.

In cases where the family or individual is able to resolve a crisis after funding has been awarded and they no longer need assistance with this fund, the funding will need to be returned to the city.

Documentation

Families will verify their situation and immediate need, either through related documentation or external sources Millcreek Promise or Promise South Salt Lake considers to be sufficiently credible.

Millcreek Promise or Promise South Salt Lake will review documentation provided and/or contact third parties, as needed, to confirm their understanding of the situation and verify the current or potential negative impact on the family.

Required

Gather any information needed to verify the situation; needed documentation will be based on the family or individual's situation.

- Examples: eviction notice, lease documentation (or lease equivalent), etc.

Other Suggestions/Examples of Documentation

General

- Current budget of family's household monthly expenses and income
- Evidence of current or future employment (ex. new hire letter, pay stub, etc.)

Loss of Home or Domestic Abuse

- For rent and/or deposit, mutually signed lease or equivalent documentation between landlord and family
- For utilities, copy of utility bill that correlates with the requested amount
- Essential household items, outline of items that are reflected in the requested amount

Avoiding Homelessness

- Eviction letter
- Copy of mutually signed lease or equivalent between landlord and family

Disabled or Disadvantaged Health

- Release to return to work
- Estimate (on provider's letterhead) for expense

Home Repair or Basic Needs

- Estimate (on provider's letterhead) for work to be performed and include the family's name and date