

Helping Hand Fund Guidelines

What is the Helping Hand Fund?

The Helping Hand Fund is a program of the Humboldt Area Foundation & Wild Rivers Community Foundation. It provides small grants to women, trans-men, and/or children that are struggling, for whom a small grant will provide some relief during times of crisis.

Who can apply?

- Applications must be made through a qualified sponsor, such as a recognized social service agency, school counselor or medical provider, where the sponsor is working in a professional capacity to address the community member's health and wellness needs.
- **Applicants may not apply for themselves**
- This sponsor takes on the responsibility of administering the grant if the application is approved.
- Applications cannot be submitted by the sponsor for payment of their goods or services.

What are the Grant Requirements?

- The Helping Hand fund is designed to provide assistance for women (including trans women), children ages 0-19 years old. **Applications may be submitted on behalf of male identifying guardians for resources for the youth in their care.**
- Clients must be Humboldt County residents.
- Funds are granted on a **one time basis per person per 365 day period.**
- Items that are of a recurrent nature are generally not funded.
- Funding will not be provided for items that have other identifiable sources of funding, either from insurance, government organizations or other charitable organizations.
- The fund cannot pay for expenses already incurred.
- Decisions to grant funds are contingent upon funding criteria and the availability of funds at the time of review.

- There is a **two week turn-around time required** for application review and check processing. Occasionally the committee will ask for additional information before making a decision. This will often result in a longer turn-around time. During the pandemic, it can take 3-4 weeks for checks to be received, if applications are approved.
- The Helping Hand Fund Committee meets every Tuesday, with the exception of holidays.
- **All applications must be complete and submitted by 12:00 p.m. on Friday to be considered by the committee on Tuesday.** Applications should be submitted using our online portal at hhfgrants.smapply.io
- **The maximum request amount is \$150.** Additional funding may be considered based on current available funds.

Who to contact:

- Get in touch first with your doctor's office, social worker, or other entity who will act as your sponsor.
- For questions, please call the Humboldt Health Foundation office at (707) 442-2417 or email info@humhealth.org.
- Questions about an application that has already been submitted? Contact your sponsor for a status update.

For health and wellness related needs, please apply to the [Angel Fund](#).

Regularly Considered (List is not prioritized):

Please include itemized prices in the application description

- **Baby necessities (Diapers, Cribs, Baby Gates, etc.)**
- **Birth Certificates**
- **Blankets**
- **Bus passes**
- **Car Repairs**
- **Childcare**
- **Clothing**
- **Driver Ed Class**
- **Driver's Licenses**
- **Furniture (Mattresses, Dressers, Oven, etc.)**
- **Home repairs**
- **ID Cards**
- **Immigration Fees**
- **Laptops for school, work, or telehealth**
- **Overdue Bills (PG&E, Water, Electric, Internet, etc.)**
- **Parenting Classes**
- **Propane**
- **Washing Machines**

The following items are generally not considered:

- Burial/Cremation Costs
- Counseling (long term)
- Dumpsters
- Employment/workforce training
- Hotel Funding Requests
- Parenting Classes
- Pet Care/ Dog Training
- Pet Medication
- Smoke Alarms
- Summer Camps
- Tattoo Removal
- Waste Removal
- Woodstove Barriers/Fireplace Gates