

Natural Disaster Assistance Fund Grant Guidelines

Natural Disaster Assistance Program Purpose:

The Natural Disaster Assistance Fund is dedicated to filling a need by providing assistance for individuals and families residing in Winnebago County who have been negatively impacted by a local disaster.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for assistance from the Natural Disaster Assistance Program, applicants must reside in Winnebago County and any distribution must qualify as a charitable distribution for the relief of individuals and families who have been negatively impacted by a local disaster as declared jointly by the Mayor of Rockford and the Winnebago County Board Chairman.

Criteria:

Grants assist individuals and families who:

- have experienced a profound crisis caused by a natural disaster.
- will be negatively impacted if funding is not received.
- are working with the City of Rockford Human Services Department.
- demonstrate financial need.
- items that will be considered for funding include, but are not limited to: disaster-caused housing expenses, child care, medical and dental expenses, food, clothing, damage to an essential vehicle, home repair, clean-up items, and temporary housing assistance.

Natural Disaster grants do not fund:

- Work already completed
- Debt reduction – such as Pay Day loans, excessive credit card debt, etc.
- Structural improvements to rental property

Deadlines:

Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Application Process:

- Service Providers must complete the application and submit to the City of Rockford Human Services Department.
- The City of Rockford Human Services Department will notify Service Providers in writing of the final status of their application.
- If approved for funding, Service Providers will receive funds from the City of Rockford Human Services Department and disburse accordingly.
- If the grant is not used by the applicant within 60 days, the funds must be returned to the City of Rockford Human Services Department.
- The City of Rockford Human Services Department may give grants up to \$1,000 per request, not to exceed a \$1,500 lifetime limit per family. All requests will be treated on a case-by-case basis.
- A final report on each grant is required within sixty (60) days of funding. Additional grants will not be made to referring agency in the case of outstanding final reports.
- Service Providers and the City of Rockford Human Services Department will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, national/ethnic origin, political beliefs, veteran's status, disability, or any other factor prohibited by applicable law.

****The City of Rockford Human Services Department reserves the right to deny any grant request.***

*****Applications or attachments submitted on a Friday or the day before a holiday may not be reviewed until the next business day.***