

# EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

## HELP WITH EXPENSES AND BILLS



OAK PARK  
TOWNSHIP



RIVER FOREST  
TOWNSHIP



Sudden financial hardship can be incredibly stressful on a family or individual when you can't pay living expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, and others. At these times, **Oak Park and River Forest residents can apply for Emergency Assistance** – a one-time financial benefit to help cover a cost that solves challenges such as potential eviction or utility shutdown.

### How It Works

If you do not qualify for General Assistance, you are invited to apply for **Emergency Assistance** – a needs-based service that offers financial assistance for unpaid bills and expenses that alleviate a health and safety issue such as disconnected utility, or a work related expense, to obtain or maintain employment, such as a car repair. The Emergency Assistance Program can help with the following bills and expenses:

- Job-related expenses such as transportation, work boots, uniforms
- Rent, mortgage, and security deposits
- Utilities such as gas, electric, wifi, and cell phone bills
- Appliances such as washer, dryer, refrigerator, stove, water heater
- Repairs, including car repairs and/or minor home repairs
- Handyman services
- Medical bills and medicine, or medical equipment not covered by health insurance
- Dentures and/or Eyeglasses
- Storage and/or Moving fees (truck or packing company)
- Pest Extermination, including bed bugs

Assistance is available **one time only per household** within a program year (April 1-March 31). In order to apply, you must have less than \$5,000 in cash on hand or in a bank account. The program can assist up to \$1,600. If the request is greater than \$1,600 the client is responsible for paying the difference before being approved.

Checks are made payable through the Emergency Assistance program to the business owed by an applicant for a bill or expense. Approved applicants are able to pick up checks to include with additional payments to vendors, or the Township can mail the checks directly to the vendors.

### Restrictions Due to Other Assistance

If you are already receiving or have applied for General Assistance, SSI (Social Security Income), or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), you **cannot** apply for Emergency Assistance. However, you can contact Oak Park Township for other financial assistance resources and referrals that may be available at (708) 383-8005.

### HOW TO GET STARTED

Find out more about each covered expense.

Confirm whether you qualify.

Get help with applying.

## OAK PARK TOWNSHIP

Call (708) 383-8005

to schedule an appointment.

**For income qualifications and required documentation, see the reverse side.**

If you need financial assistance:

- Contact the Oak Park Township at (708) 383-8005 to determine eligibility.
- A caseworker will call you and schedule an appointment, if you qualify. Walk-ins are not accepted.
- Please have the documentation required for the application ready and available for the caseworker. (See reverse side.)
- Financial assistance is based on household needs and funds available at the time of application. Emergency Assistance is available one time per household per program year.

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## Income Guidelines & Required Documentation

### Documentation Required for Application

Unless otherwise requested by the Township, please be sure to have the following documentation on hand for your appointment that pertains to your emergency:

- Current photo ID for all household members age 18 and older
- Social Security Card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) document for all household members
- Current rental lease, subsidized housing paperwork, or proof of mortgage
- Proof of income for the last 30 days including, but not limited to, paycheck stubs, unemployment compensation, Social Security Administration (SSA), monetary gifts, loans, tax return, etc.
- All records of bank accounts for the last 30 days including, but not limited to, checking and savings accounts, CashApp, Chime, Venmo, trust funds, safety deposit boxes, stocks or bonds, etc.
- All records of other income, including but not limited to, child support, alimony, retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), pension or annuities, workmen's compensation, etc., OR a current record of applying.
- DHS Notice of Decision for all assistance received or current record of applying.
- Documents relating to the client's emergency (i.e., paid medical bills, paid auto repairs, etc.)
- Receipt(s) for portion of the expense the client is responsible for paying

### Income Guidelines for Emergency Assistance Qualification

FAMILY SIZE	30-DAY GROSS INCOME*
1	\$3,137.50
2	\$4,258.33
3	\$5,379.17
4	\$6,500.00
5	\$7,620.83
6	\$8,741.67
7	\$9,862.50
8	\$10,983.33
9	\$12,104.17
10	\$13,225.00
11	\$14,345.83
12	\$15,466.67
13	\$16,587.50
14	\$17,708.33

If your family size is over 14, please contact Oak Park Township for information on income guidelines.

\*These figures are based on the 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) published by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Federal Register/ Volume 87/Number 14, January 21, 2024.

Given that HHS allows 150% of FPG or 60% of SMI where 250% of FPG is lower than 60% of SMI, the program will be using 250% of FPG as our highest category. However, for the household size of 8 to 11 members, the benefit at 250% would exceed the allowable 60% SMI. For households larger than 11 members, the 150% will be set at the maximum income eligibility criteria.

The state reserves the right to adjust these levels based on the availability of federal appropriations.

Income guidelines are subject to change.