

Financial Assistance for Household Expenses

*There are several programs that help low income persons to meet economic emergencies. They are designed to address personal or family budget needs that cannot be met due to sudden loss of income or unexpected expenses. The assistance is short-term and may not be subject to a limited number of incidents. **There are many types of emergency financial assistance.***

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)

EFSP is a federally funded program administered through local community agencies. In Broward County several agencies provide a range of services under this program:

- ✓ Food baskets or food vouchers/gift cards
- ✓ Meals at mass feeding sites
- ✓ Lodging at mass shelter sites
- ✓ Emergency lodging at hotels/motels
- ✓ Rent/mortgage payment assistance (1 month) to prevent eviction
- ✓ First month's rent to prevent homelessness
- ✓ Utility bill assistance for one month's usage



Eligibility for these services may vary between agencies, but generally involve a case-by-case evaluation of a family's income/expense budget. Neither proof of citizenship nor qualified alien status is required. Rent/mortgage/utility assistance may not be received under this program more often than once in 12 months.

Broward County Emergency Assistance



Assistance may be obtained for rental payments, mortgage payments, and city utility bills of families who face one time economic emergencies (sudden loss of income or unexpected expenses). Eligibility is based on a review of a family's income/expenses and the circumstances that lead to the crisis. Payments are generally limited to 80% of the rental/mortgage payment or past due utility bill. This type of assistance may be used only once in a 24 month period and only three times during one's lifetime.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP will help low income residents pay FPL electricity bills. Eligibility is based on family income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, and regular LIHEAP assistance may be obtained once or twice per year (depending on funding levels). Additional FPL assistance may also be obtained for crisis situations under both LIHEAP and FPL's Care to Share program. Care to share may help some families who are not eligible under LIHEAP.



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