

## Helping Hands Grants Program Guidelines

Description	One year; likely opportunity to apply for renewal in subsequent years
Administrative Costs	Portion of grant may be used for direct administrative costs, to be discussed with Program Director prior to application submission
Criteria	Emergency triggered concrete, discrete need that can be resolved by the grant  Situation that the grant resolved likely to be stable going forward  No other sources of funds readily available
Emergency	Urgent need  Acute specific situation rather than chronic general difficulties  Examples (not exhaustive)  • homelessness or threat of eviction  • medical emergency  • natural disaster  • domestic violence  • loss of employment or other income source  • theft
Eligible Expenses	<ul> <li>Examples (not exhaustive)</li> <li>rent</li> <li>utilities</li> <li>furniture</li> <li>medical expenses</li> <li>transportation (one-time or short-term)</li> <li>child care (one-time or short-term)</li> <li>clean-up after natural disaster</li> </ul>
Ineligible Expenses	Examples (not exhaustive)
Application	Maximum \$3,000 per grant  Grant to household for more than one need permitted but total can't exceed \$3,000; grant to household on more than one occasion permitted in special circumstances  Grants typically average around \$1,200, though not a requirement



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Staffing and training	Senior program staff person must manage fund and provide final approval of grants
	May be assisted by administrative, finance, or other staff as appropriate
	Must do initial and ongoing training of frontline staff in how to determine appropriate cases and the process
Funds Management and Disbursement	Gerstner funds must be held and accounted for separately
	Organization should keep payment records on file for three years
	Grant payment <b>MUST</b> be made directly to third party rather than to client
Additional Resources	Connect client with other resources whenever possible (e.g., HRA, HEAP, ERAP, etc.)
Reporting	<ul> <li>Quarterly reports</li> <li>Due on the last Friday of the month following each quarter end</li> <li>Submitted through Gerstner online system</li> <li>Brief narrative questions</li> <li>Selected cases studies</li> <li>Quarterly quantitative data (e.g., number of grants by category, average grant size, total funds disbursed)</li> <li>One-year follow up data (e.g., percentage of clients who completed their certifications, number of clients enrolled in higher education, number of clients who are employed and their average wage)</li> <li>Leveraged Model Grantees will submit one report with aggregated data,</li> </ul>
	but should also attach quarterly financial data from each sub-grantee to the report.
Check-in calls	Direct Grantees: For initial year, in conjunction with each quarterly report, there will be check-in phone call with Program Director
	<b>Leveraged Model Grantees:</b> In conjunction with each quarterly report, the Program Administrator and team will have a check-in phone call with Program Director and/or Program Officer.
Grant Term	One-year grant; term may be a few months longer on occasion due to timing of grant
Questions	Please contact Molly Gelinas, Program Officer, with questions regarding specific cases or other topics, or with other updates, at any time. It is not necessary to wait until the next check-in call. Molly Gelinas can be reached at <a href="mailto:mgelinas@gerstner.org">mgelinas@gerstner.org</a>