EMERGENCY HARDSHIP PROGRAM
HELP IN TIMES OF NEED

Now in its tenth year of supporting our U-M colleagues in need, the Emergency Hardship Program (EHP) provides assistance for employees experiencing a temporary severe hardship due to a financial emergency. Since its inception, the program has provided counseling and support services to over 1,950 individuals and grants to 245 employees.

The program provides consultation, referrals to community resources, and, in some cases, emergency grants up to $1000 when a crisis occurs that leads to a severe temporary financial hardship. Examples of emergency situations include utility shut off, eviction, unexpected medical bills, funeral expenses, natural disasters, emergency auto repairs and other situations. Emergency grants are paid directly to the creditor, not to the employee.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EMERGENCY HARDSHIP PROGRAM

What kinds of support are provided?
The first step in the process is an initial review and consultation, which may result in a referral to university or community resources (such as United Way agencies and other non-profits such as Friends in Deed and Ann Arbor Thrift Shop). Individuals presenting long-standing financial problems may be referred to area financial institutions for assistance. In selected cases, a staff or faculty member may qualify for an emergency hardship grant.

Who is eligible to receive emergency grant funding?
The program provides financial assistance of up to $1000 when an employee is unable to meet immediate, essential expenses and has exhausted other available avenues of assistance. Employees in good standing who have been employed for at least the past six consecutive months in a regular
position of 50 percent or more who are experiencing a severe, temporary emergency financial hardship are eligible to apply. Awards are allocated based on need, income and employment eligibility guidelines. Applicants who have not received a grant within the past five years are eligible.

What constitutes a temporary hardship?
A qualifying temporary financial hardship is a specific, time-limited crisis event such as death of a family member, fire, serious illness, critical injury, etc. Individuals presenting longer-standing financial problems do not meet the temporary hardship criteria and are referred to budget counseling or other community resources.

How are grant recipients selected?
Pre-screening for grant funding is done by either the Faculty and Staff Consultation and Counseling Office (campus employee assistance program) or the Office of Counseling and Workplace Resilience (Michigan Medicine employee assistance program). A volunteer committee reviews applications (minus identifying information) for eligibility and qualifying criteria. Grants are made on behalf of employee to the creditors that the employee has documented bills for. No cash distributions are made to employees.

INFORMATION FOR DONORS
• 100 percent of funds donated to the Emergency Hardship Program are used for grants.

• No donated funds are used to administer the program.

• No General Fund dollars are used to support the program.

• The program is funded by donations from faculty and staff.

• Donations may be made online at emergencyhardship.umich.edu.

For more information or to make a donation, visit emergencyhardship.umich.edu

EMERGENCY HARDSHIP PROGRAM HELP IN TIMES OF NEED