

DISASTER RELIEF FUND FACT SHEET

The **Disaster Relief Fund (DRF)** at United Way of South Central Michigan (UWSCMI) supports response and recovery in instances of natural disaster and community crises that affect individuals and families below the ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) threshold in the region. Information on DRF can be found at unitedforscmi.org/disaster-relief-fund.



Tax-exempt donations can be made by individuals, companies, local governments and foundations at any time at unitedforscmi.org/disaster-relief-fund/

WHO WE FUND

The DRF funds **501c3 nonprofit entities, public entities such as school districts or municipal departments, and faith-based organizations**. At this time, individuals and families are not able to directly request or receive money from the fund.

Once the fund is activated, these organizations may submit a brief online application that will be reviewed promptly, generally in seven days or less, and the applicant notified of their funding outcome.

WHAT WE FUND

Assistance from DRF is intended to address critical life and safety needs resulting from a community event, with a focus on supporting those living at or below the ALICE threshold.

In the past, this has included:

- Emergency financial assistance (i.e. gift cards, cash stipends, etc.)
- Housing stability, re-housing, temporary housing, and eviction prevention efforts
- Critical home repairs
- Food items and meals
- Clothing and hygiene resources
- Access to health services
- Legal advocacy services
- Educational interventions and supports

Generally, standard cleanup efforts and cosmetic repairs are not considered eligible.

WHEN ARE FUNDS AVAILABLE

UWSCMI considers certain criteria when considering whether to activate -- begin raising and distributing dollars -- in response to a disruptive event in the region that **overwhelms the capacity of survivors, local officials and local nonprofits, and requires additional assistance.**

These criteria include, but are not limited to:

- The disaster specifically impacting Black, Indigenous and People of Color and/or those living below the ALICE threshold
- Significant loss of life, injury or displacement, impact on a community's livelihoods and capacity to respond, and/or impact on vulnerable populations
- Basic needs supports are expected/verified to be needed in response to the particular crisis
- There have been calls for assistance from the impacted community.

Note: A formal state of emergency is not required and the declaration of a state of emergency by any body does not automatically activate these Funds.

Efforts are made to maintain a balance of funds available so resources can be quickly deployed. When funds are activated, broad communication from UWSCMI will occur to inform potential donors and organizations of how to donate or apply for funds.

RELATIONSHIP WITH FEMA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

DRF funds are local, philanthropic resources intended to complement, rather than supplant, local, state and federal emergency response resources.

In past activations, flexible DRF dollars have been able to be deployed within 12-72 hours of the crises and have sometimes -- but not always -- been joined later by governmental resources or reimbursements.

HOW TO CONNECT

Visit United Way of South Central Michigan's website at unitedforscmi.org/disaster-relief-fund, or email communityimpact@uwscmi.org.