



Applying for HRA Emergency Grants

WHAT TYPES OF GRANTS CAN HELP ME IN AN EMERGENCY?

The Human Resources Administration (HRA) has three grants that can help you in an emergency:

- **Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA)** is for people who receive or who are eligible for SSI.
- **Emergency Assistance to Families with Children (EAF)** is for families with children who get public assistance.
- **Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA)** is for single adults and childless couples.

WHAT DOES HRA CONSIDER TO BE AN EMERGENCY?

An emergency is a sudden situation from a serious event that was beyond your control.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH GRANT?

Your household must:

EAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be eligible for, or get, SSI; and 2. Be affected by an emergency.
EAF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a minor child or children; 2. Be affected by an emergency; and 3. Need the help to avoid your child's hardship.
ESNA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be affected by an emergency; and 2. Not be able to meet the need under the EAF grant, the EAA grant, Family Assistance, Safety Net Assistance, or HEAP programs.

WHAT EMERGENCY EXPENSES WILL HRA PAY?

Rent Arrears	<p>This is to pay for past rent that is due to your landlord. HRA decides to pay this on a case-by-case basis, considering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your responsibility for the arrears; 2. Your need for the help; 3. Your ability to pay off some of the arrears by another source like family members, friends, or organizations; and 4. Your future ability to pay your rent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You can show future ability by having a third party help pay ongoing rent. The third party has to show that helping you will impoverish them, and they must give HRA papers proving their income and expenses.
Relocation Expenses	<p>This is to pay a broker, to pay a security deposit, or to pay moving costs. You can apply for this if you have to leave your home because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a disaster happens; • you have a health or safety problem;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a cheaper apartment is available; • the place that you live in makes a severe medical problem worse; or • you move to a short-term home.
Utility Debt	This is to pay your utility bill to stop your utilities from getting shut-off. HRA will pay only if you show that you are both the tenant of the home and the customer of the utility service.
Furniture or Clothing Allowance	This is to pay for furniture or clothing when you move from a nursing home or hospital to a private home, or when your things are lost or destroyed because of a crime or a disaster and you can't get help from others. If your things were destroyed because of a fire or flood, you have to show that you told either the fire department or a charity about it. If you lost your things because of a crime, you have to show that you reported it to the police.
Storage Fees	This is to put your things in a storage unit if you were evicted, are in short-term housing (such as a homeless shelter), or are looking to relocate.

HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I GET FOR EACH OF THESE EMERGENCIES?

Rent Arrears	For an EAA grant, you are limited to four months of rent, once in a 12 month period. For an EAF or ESNA grant, you are limited to a total period of six months of rent, once every five years.	
Relocation Expenses	There is no limit.	
Utility Debt	You will get the smallest total of either the past four months (or two months if billed bi-monthly) or the total amount you owe.	
Clothing Allowance	Age	Clothing Allowance
	Birth through 5 years	\$48
	6 through 11	\$73
	12 through adult	\$89
Storage Fees	There is no limit.	
Furniture Allowance	Room	Furniture Allowance
	Living Room	\$182
	Bedroom, with a single bed	\$145
	Bedroom, with two single beds	\$205
	Bedroom, with a double bed	\$184
	Kitchen (not including appliances)	\$142, plus \$12 for each extra person
	Range	\$182
	Refrigerator	\$182 (\$258 for households with four or more people)
	Bathroom	\$6, plus \$4 for each extra person
	Cabinet for linens	\$22
Stove for heating	\$72 (\$82 for households with five or more people)	

WHAT ARE THE INCOME REQUIREMENTS?

EAA	You must be getting SSI benefits or be approved for SSI.
EAF	Your household's gross income must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. You can't have resources immediately available to you to help you pay for the emergency.
ESNA	Your household's gross income must be at or below 125% of the federal poverty level. You can't have resources immediately available to you to help you pay for the emergency.

IF I AM AN IMMIGRANT CAN I QUALIFY FOR AN HRA EMERGENCY GRANT?

Eligibility for an emergency grant depends on your immigration status and other factors, including: when you came to the U.S., if your immigration status has changed, your age, and if you have a disability.

As each case is different, please contact us if you have questions before applying for an emergency grant for you or for others. Applications can affect your immigration status.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR A GRANT?

You can apply for a grant at any local HRA Job Center. HRA will give you an interview. At the interview you will need to give HRA documents to show you are eligible. If you tell them it is an emergency, HRA should make a decision on your grant application during the emergency period.

HOW OFTEN CAN I APPLY?

HRA limits how often and how much help you can get. However, HRA can make an exception if you show the need and importance of your emergency situation.

WILL GETTING ONE OF THESE GRANTS AFFECT MY OTHER BENEFITS?

EAA/ ESNA	Your grant wouldn't count against SNAP, Medicaid, and SSI.
EAF	Your grant wouldn't count against SNAP and Medicaid, but would count against SSI.

WILL I HAVE TO PAY BACK ANY OF THE GRANT THAT I RECEIVE?

EAA	You generally do not have to pay back this grant.
EAF	<p>You generally do not need to repay a rent arrears grant. However, if HRA gives you more than the maximum monthly shelter allowance you get, you might have to pay back the difference.</p> <p>Also, you may have to pay back a utility debt grant, and you will have to sign a repayment agreement if your income is higher than what HRA would give you monthly. All other types of EAF grants usually do not need to be paid back to HRA.</p>
ESNA	<p>If you are not getting cash assistance from HRA, you will have to repay a rent arrears grant. You will have 12 months to repay it.</p> <p>You may have to pay a utility debt grant back, and you will have to sign a repayment agreement if your income is higher than what HRA would give you monthly.</p> <p>If you are already getting a utility grant, you can't get another one unless you haven't missed any payments on your current repayment agreement, you pay back all of the first grant, or you apply during cold-weather season (January 3rd – April 15th). If you apply because of cold-weather season, you have to sign a new repayment agreement and start paying back both grants on April 16th.</p> <p>If you later get HRA cash benefits or SSI benefits, you can stop paying back the utility grant. But, if you stop getting cash assistance or SSI, you will have to start paying back the grant again.</p>

IF I APPLY AND I AM DENIED A GRANT, CAN I APPEAL THE DECISION?

Yes, you have to ask for a Fair Hearing *within 60 days of the date of the denial notice*. You can also ask for an informal conference at your HRA Job Center to talk about the issue with a case worker. You can ask for a fair hearing either by phone 1-800-342-3334, fax 518-473-6735, online <http://otda.ny.gov/hearings/request/#online> or in person at 14 Boerum Place in Brooklyn.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You may call MFJ Legal Services, Inc.'s Government Benefits Project at 212-417-3732 on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet gives general information for NYC residents; it is NOT legal advice.