



Associate Crisis Fund

What is the Associate Crisis Fund? (ACF)

The Associate Crisis Fund was created to provide immediate financial assistance to associates who have encountered a personal hardship that was unforeseen and beyond their control.

What is considered a crisis?

A crisis is an acute, unavoidable, serious, life-changing interruption that has been caused by an unexpected emergency/event/disaster such as an accident, illness, death, or fire involving the employee and/or immediate family. A crisis is not the inability to maintain financial responsibility due to a lack of poor decision making or planning, or economic change.

Are all applications for aid approved?

Not all applications are approved for assistance. Applications are reviewed to determine if a crisis situation exists. Aid will not be given, for example, to pay charge, cable or cell phone accounts, for bills in advance, or for bills that are due/overdue as a result of a lack of poor decision making or planning, or economic change. The fund is to help those in an acute, unexpected, one-time crisis.

Are there dollar limits?

Financial aid is given to as many qualifying applicants as possible; therefore, the amount of funding given to each applicant will vary based upon their needs and is limited to a maximum of \$1,000. The granted amount will consist of gas cards, restaurant gift cards, a visa gift card and/or payment on appropriate bills. Due to parameters already in place, the amount for gas/visa cards will not exceed \$300. Please include supporting documents with the application (including crisis-related documentation, copies of bills, etc.) to expedite the review time. Checks will be made payable and sent directly to the proper business for the incurred expense. This amount can be spread out over more than one month if necessary.

Where do the funds come from?

ACF is supported by donations from associates through the HERO Club (Hospital Employees Reaching Out) — the Great Plains Health Care Foundation associate giving club. 50% of each payroll donation from Great Plains Health associates is set aside for the ACF.

Who can apply?

Any current full or part time (.5 FTE) Great Plains Health associate who is not on a corrective action plan, and has experienced an unanticipated financial hardship is eligible to apply and may receive assistance once per calendar year. Associates cannot receive assistance for more than three consecutive years.

How do I apply?

Contact your Supervisor/Director or the Foundation for an application. It is also located the hospital's intranet in policy manager. Fill out the form and return it as directed. Each request is carefully reviewed by selected HERO Club committee members. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, associates may only receive ACF assistance one time per year. Return the completed application to the Foundation Office, or you may email it to bourquek@gphealth.org. An in-person discussion may be requested.

Can I help?

YES. Join the HERO Club through a payroll deduction and 50% of your pledge or gift will support the Associate Crisis Fund. Any single donation is gratefully accepted and tax-deductible. You can play a very important part in the life of your fellow coworkers starting today!