

United Way Leeds & Grenville Urgent Needs Fund

Overview

The United Way Leeds & Grenville Urgent Needs Fund (UNF), launched in 2024, provides one-time emergency financial assistance to individuals and families at risk of homelessness due to unexpected or urgent expenses.

The fund is designed to help with extraordinary costs that cannot be covered through other community supports and that may threaten a household's ability to remain safely housed. Examples may include emergency furnace repairs, transportation-related costs needed to maintain employment, or other urgent household expenses.

The Urgent Needs Fund does not cover rent, mortgage payments, or housing arrears.

How to Apply

To inquire about the Urgent Needs Fund, contact:

United Way Community Programs

Phone: **613-499-9393**

How You Can Help

There are several ways to support the Urgent Needs Fund:

- Donate directly to the Urgent Needs Fund
- Share information about the fund with community organizations and workplaces
- Support the fund through grants or community partnerships

For partnership or grant inquiries, contact: **info@uwlg.org**

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Urgent Needs Fund?

The Urgent Needs Fund provides financial support to households at risk of homelessness due to poverty who are facing an emergency or time-sensitive need that cannot be addressed through other available supports.

This fund is intended for unexpected expenses beyond normal day-to-day living costs.

What expenses may be eligible?

Eligible expenses may include:

- Unexpected urgent household repairs or expenses
- Costs related to maintaining employment
- Transportation-related emergencies
- Social integration supports connected to employment
- Special diet requirements (for individuals not receiving Ontario Works or ODSP special diet supports)

Who is eligible?

Applicants must:

- Live in Ontario
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have a Canadian bank account

If receiving Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), applicants must first seek assistance through United Counties Leeds & Grenville Community and Social Services.

Do I need a referral from another agency?

No. Direct applications are accepted, although referrals from community agencies are welcomed.

What information will I need to provide?

Applicants may be asked to provide:

- Proof of household income (such as pay stubs, bank statements, tax returns, OSAP documents, or employer letters)
- Valid identification

What identification is accepted?

Accepted forms of identification include:

- Birth certificate
- Health card
- Driver's licence
- Status card
- Valid passport

If you do not have identification, a worker from a partner agency may contact United Way Community Programs on your behalf.

Will my privacy be protected?

Yes. United Way Leeds & Grenville is committed to protecting personal information and maintaining confidentiality in accordance with its privacy policies.

Can I receive funding more than once?

Funding is available once per household per calendar year and cannot be accessed within six months of a previous application.

Does the money need to be repaid?

No. Assistance provided through the Urgent Needs Fund does not need to be repaid.

Will payments be made directly to me?

Whenever possible, payments are made directly to vendors or service providers on behalf of the applicant.

Can I apply if I receive OW or ODSP?

Yes, but applicants must first contact United Counties Leeds & Grenville Community and Social Services to determine whether assistance is available through those programs.

How long does processing take?

Applications are typically reviewed within approximately one week. Processing times may vary depending on payment method and application volume.

Do I need to claim this on my taxes?

No. Funding received through the Urgent Needs Fund is not considered taxable income.

Can multiple people in the same household apply?

No. Funding is limited to one application per household per year.

The Urgent Needs Fund program may evolve over time. United Way Leeds & Grenville reserves the right to revise guidelines or deny applications as necessary.