

## Women's Fund Application

### 1. **Organization**

El Dorado County Department of Human Services  
937 Spring Street, Placerville, CA 95667

Contact Person: Star Walker, Program Coordinator  
(530) 621-6255  
[swalker@co.el-dorado.ca.us](mailto:swalker@co.el-dorado.ca.us)

### 2. **Project Description**

This Project will allow the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide one-time direct financial assistance in an amount up to \$800 to individual women who, during these challenging economic times, are experiencing difficulty paying for necessary basic needs such as shelter, health care, food and clothing or peripheral expenses necessary to achieve or retain employment. Women who receive assistance under this project must have received or be receiving services designed to promote economic self-sufficiency and/or emotional well-being.

### 3. **Need for Project**

DHS provides services to address the needs of low-income, elderly, handicapped and at-risk residents of El Dorado County. Among the vast array of programs administered by DHS, the preponderance of services are designed to support the goals of self-sufficiency and well-being by assessing client needs, identifying issues, including domestic violence or substance abuse that preclude independence, and offering services that help to remove those barriers. DHS provides services throughout El Dorado County. This project will support women who are or have been DHS clients and have exhausted all available community and other resources to meet a specific need and for whom a small amount of timely financial assistance may make the difference between dependency and self-sufficiency and emotional well-being. Specific areas of need to be addressed by this Project are:

Food and Nutrition: Hunger exists in El Dorado County among the low-income population of all ages. The continuing need for adequate nutrition assistance is attributed in part to the high cost of living, unemployment or limited employment opportunities and the incidence of mental or physical disabilities that restrict the ability of individuals to obtain and/or prepare nutritious foods. With food costs on the rise, many of the neediest women in our community have to make daunting decisions between meeting nutritional needs and paying for other essential needs such as housing or utilities.

Shelter: As the cost of housing in El Dorado County has increased, many families and individuals cannot meet the expense of purchasing a home or even afford the cost of a securing a rental unit. For many, especially single mothers living month-to-month on a limited income, saving for the first and last month and security deposit typically required to move into a rental unit proves to be an impossible task. Many women and their families are forced to share apartments or homes, and in some cases live in shelters, in cars or on the street.

Health Care: With medical costs continuing to escalate, women often cannot access necessary health care for themselves or their children or are unable to afford prescription or OTC medications. In another health-related concern, many households experience the loss of their utilities and seek community resources to help maintain a healthy environment in their home. The ever-increasing cost of utilities has served to escalate this ongoing problem. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) administered by DHS is a federally-funded direct payment program available to eligible low-income households to help offset the cost of heating and/or cooling their homes to ensure a healthy temperature. With the ongoing increase in energy costs compounded by limited HEAP funding, many households are not able to access these resources.

Clothing: Lack of appropriate clothing can affect health and/or well being. It may impact a woman's ability to obtain or retain employment. DHS is aware of an instance where a teenage girl was reluctant to attend school and nearly dropped out due to acute embarrassment caused by a lack of an appropriate support undergarment. Lack of warm outerwear can lead to serious illness during the winter season.

Employment: Attainment and/or retention of a job support financial self-sufficiency and help to alleviate issues surrounding emotional well-being. DHS provides Workforce Investment Act and CalWORKs employment services to promote and increase employment opportunities, job retention, earnings and occupational skills of individuals. During January 2009, the unemployment rate for El Dorado County hit a high of 10.6% (a rate not experienced since January of 1993 at 10.5%). DHS has seen a dramatic increase in demand for employment services, as many newly unemployed women or their spouses are seeking assistance from our cash aid and employment programs.

#### **4. Methods/Activities/Timeline**

##### **Methods**

Applicant referrals will be accepted only from staff working in DHS programs. Program staff will identify clients in need of Project assistance from among clients contacted in the course of eligibility determination and provision of services. Each Project applicant must be a current or graduated client of a DHS program(s) and must have exhausted all other community resources that would help them meet their specific need before Project financial assistance is granted. The client's program contact or case worker will assume responsibility for ensuring that all available resources have been explored and exhausted. A referral will then be made to the Project Leader. The Project Leader will review the application, confirm that community resources have been exhausted and make a determination as to whether the expressed need falls within Project parameters and the applicant should receive funding. Referrals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Primary factors in determining eligibility will be the applicant's demonstrated role in working towards economic self-sufficiency and/or emotional well-being and assurance that receipt of financial assistance to meet a specific need will assist her in meeting and maintaining her goal.

##### **Activities**

Project funding will address the basic needs identified above, as many single women as well as those with families in our community struggle to maintain self-sufficiency and emotional well-being. The intent of this project is to help those women who are working towards economic self-sufficiency and/or emotional well-being, by giving them a financial boost that will assist them in meeting and/or maintaining their goal.

Financial assistance will only be given out in the form of a product-specific gift card or voucher or a check made out directly to the vendor providing the service (example: rental agency, mortgage company, grocery store, educational institution, utility company). Checks may not be written out directly to the applicant.

##### **Timeline**

- DHS anticipates a Project commencement date of June 1, 2009, or upon award of funding.
- Project eligibility guidelines and referral forms will be distributed via e-mail to all DHS staff immediately following notice of award of grant funding. Hard copies will also be provided to all DHS supervisors and managers.
- Within the first month and ongoing thereafter, caseworkers and program eligibility staff will commence reviewing current Human Services client files to determine potential need for referral to the Project. New clients will be assessed upon application for services. Caseworkers will work with

the individual client to confirm need and determine that all community resources have been exhausted. Referrals deemed appropriate will be made to Project Leader.

- Project Leader will confirm eligibility and grant financial assistance within approximately two weeks of referral receipt.

## 5. **Measurable Objectives**

Provide at least twenty-five (25) women with direct one-time financial assistance in an amount not to exceed \$800 to help them meet basic identified needs that will promote economic self-sufficiency and/or emotional well-being, with success and corresponding benefits to the community demonstrated and measured by the number of women receiving assistance within the areas of identified need.

- Reduce the number of low-income or vulnerable women living in shared housing, homeless shelters, vehicles and/or on the street, by providing rental or security deposits for affordable rental units.
- Increase the number of low-income women employed, by providing temporary childcare or school tuition or paying for transportation, lack of which would prevent them from working.
- Reduce the number of low-income and vulnerable women who are not receiving adequate nutrition, by purchasing food or gift cards to local grocery markets.
- Reduce the number of low-income women and their children who are living without heat, by paying utility bills or purchasing wood, propane or pellets.
- Increase the number of women and their children receiving adequate medical care by paying for unexpected medical or prescription costs not covered by Medicare, Medi-Cal, CMSP or private insurance.

## 6. **Organization Experience/Mission**

The Project supports the mission of the Department of Human Services to provide, assist in providing and/or facilitate quality accessible programs designed to meet basic needs and to improve the quality of life for residents of El Dorado County. DHS has administered or facilitated provision of a wide array of programs for over thirty years that serve clients in all life stages and in all manner of circumstances. Current services include:

**Protective Services:** Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Public Guardian Office

**Senior Services:** Senior Day Care, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, Citizen Advocates for the Protection of Elders, Family Caregiver Support Program, Senior Health Education Program, Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, Legal Assistance, Senior Nutrition Program, Senior Information and Assistance, Senior Peer Counseling, Senior Shuttle, You Are Not Alone (YANA)

**Low-Income Services:** Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (Home Energy Assistance and Weatherization), South Lake Tahoe Special Needs Transportation, Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

**Community Services:** Linkages Program, Multi Purpose Senior Services Program, In-Home Supportive Services

**Child Welfare Services:** Foster Care Program, Independent Living Program, Transitional Housing Program, Transitional Housing Program Plus, Adoption Services, SB 163 Wraparound Program

**Housing Services:** Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8), Community Development Block Grant Program, Fair Housing, First Time Homebuyer Loan Program, Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, Mortgage Credit Certificate Program

**Health Care Related Services:** Medi-Cal Eligibility, County Medical Services Program (CMSP)

**Employment Services:** CalWORKs, CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work, General Assistance, One Stop Career Resource Center, Workforce Investment Act

**General Assistance:** Cash Aid, Food Stamps

DESCRIPTION	Funds	Funds From	TOTAL
Personnel Expenses:	Requested	Other	BUDGET
(Show % of time spent on project) List Title/Function	from WFED	Sources	2009
Program Coordinator/Project Coordination		\$441	\$441
Salary cost at 2% of time			
<b>Benefits:</b>			
Program Coordinator/Project Coordination		\$253	\$253
Benefit cost at 2% of time			
<b>Non-personnel Expenses: (Itemize)</b>			
Direct assistance for identified clients	\$6,000		\$6,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET (6/1/09 - 12/31/09)</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$694</b>	<b>\$6,694</b>

DESCRIPTION	Funds	Funds From	TOTAL
Personnel Expenses:	Requested	Other	BUDGET
(Show % of time spent on project) List Title/Function	from WFED	Sources	2010
Program Coordinator/Project Coordination		\$315	\$315
Salary cost at 2% of time			
<b>Benefits:</b>			
Program Coordinator/Project Coordination		\$180	\$180
Benefit cost at 2% of time			
<b>Non-personnel Expenses: (Itemize)</b>			
Direct assistance for identified clients	\$4,000		\$4,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET (1/1/10 - 5/31/10)</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$495</b>	<b>\$4,495</b>