

TEAMSTERS COVID-19  
EMERGENCY RECOVERY FUND



**Teamsters Local 399 Emergency Recovery Fund FAQ**

*In order to take effect, this Fund must first be voted on and approved by Local 399 Members in “good-standing”. The voting will be conducted electronically and ballots will be sent to Members in “good-standing” via text message and/or email and the voting window will take place between May 11<sup>th</sup> at 10AM and conclude on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 12PM.*

**Q: What is the Teamsters Local 399 Emergency Recovery Fund?**

**A:** On April 28, 2020, Secretary Treasurer Steve Dayan, announced that the Teamsters Local 399 Executive Board had voted to approve a \$500,000 emergency recovery fund to support Members of Local 399 who were impacted by the recent shutdown in production related to the COVID-19 virus. The Fund is not available to Local 399 Staff.

**Q: Who will be administering the Teamsters Local 399 Emergency Recovery Fund?**

**A:** MPTF (the Motion Picture and Television Fund/ [www.mptf.com](http://www.mptf.com)) has been designated as the fund’s administrator. Teamsters Local 399 and MPTF have a long-standing relationship and have worked together in the past to support the Industry workforce in hard times.

**Q: How do you qualify for financial assistance from the Teamsters Local 399 Emergency Recovery Fund?**

**A:** There are several pieces to establishing your eligibility. All Members who were Members in “good-standing” as of January 1, 2020, qualify. Members who went on withdrawal after January 1, 2020 because of Covid-19, who were Members in “good-standing” as of January 1, 2020, are eligible as well. In addition, any Member wanting to access the Emergency Recovery Fund must be a “Member in good-standing” as defined by the Teamster International Constitution as of January 1, 2020. All Members who were on active status as of January 1, 2020 qualify. Those Members wanting to access the Emergency Recovery Fund need to provide their most recent 2020 Pay Stub (for productions that got put onto hiatus/shutdown or layoffs from facility agreements as a result of the pandemic) or an email (or another form of documentation) demonstrating acceptance of a position on a show that got postponed due to the COVID-19 situation. Given that the aim of the fund is to help those with the greatest need, once status eligibility is established, an MPTF social worker will work with members to demonstrate their need for financial assistance. Members will need to document that they have less than \$10,000 in liquid assets at the time of applying to be eligible for assistance.

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**Q: Who makes the eligibility determination?**

**A:** MPTF has been designated as the fund administrator to establish eligibility. It will work closely with the Teamsters Local 399 team to ensure inclusiveness.

**Q: Can you describe the application process?**

**A:** For members of Teamsters Local 399 seeking financial support, the process begins with a call to the MPTF hotline (323) 634-3888. **Please provide the information asked for on the hotline.** Members' calls will be returned by an MPTF social worker who will assess their eligibility and specific circumstances/needs. Members will be asked to provide their most recent 2020 pay stub or an email(or some other form of documentation) indicating acceptance of a job offer for an upcoming show and a Union Membership Card. Next, the assigned social worker will walk the member through the process of applying for financial assistance, which includes the completion of a financial assistance application and providing the following information: current bank statements showing the most recent 30-day transaction history and account balances. If approved, the financial assistance will not go to the Member directly but will cover bills, so MPTF will need a copy of these as well. Members will be notified by their assigned social worker of the determination.

**Q: How long will it take from the time I apply and provide all the documentation to the time I am confirmed as eligible and get assistance.**

**A:** This depends on the volume of calls MPTF is experiencing. Current turnaround time is approximately 5 to 7 business days.

**Q: What amount of financial assistance might I receive?**

**A:** The Teamsters Local 399 Emergency Recovery Fund grants are roughly \$1,000. As mentioned above, these grants do not go directly to Members but rather to those designated vendors (banks for mortgages or car payments, utility company, landlord, healthcare providers or insurers) provided to MPTF.

**Q: If I am collecting unemployment or receiving any other kind of federal or state relief under recently passed legislation, am I still eligible for this financial assistance from my union?**

**A:** Yes. The Teamsters Local 399 Emergency Recovery Fund will supplement any other form of relief its Members are receiving as a result of the loss of work from the COVID-19 virus.

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**Q: If my household has more than one member of Teamsters Local 399, will we be treated differently? Will we both be eligible for a financial grant or will we be treated as a single household?**

**A:** The Teamsters Local 399 Emergency Recovery Fund will treat two Teamster households the same as a single Member household. Members will NOT be eligible to receive two grants of financial assistance.

**Q: I have seen announcements recently of additional emergency relief funding from Netflix and MPTF. Can I apply to those sources as well?**

**A:** Yes. We are working collaboratively with Netflix and MPTF to ensure that the greatest number of eligible industry Members have the opportunity for a single grant of financial assistance. Members will receive only one grant but will receive the largest grant available at the time.

**Q: Is this financial assistance a one-time relief or may I apply again in the future?**

**A:** We cannot answer that definitively right now. Teamsters Local 399 needs to see how many of its Members qualify for financial assistance under the parameters that have been set and then determine if there is funding for additional relief. Given the uncertainties around the duration of this situation, our advice today would be to assume that it is one-time.

**Q: I have also heard about some changes to my pension and health plans. Can you explain those? Will any of them impact the Teamsters Local 399 Emergency Recovery Fund?**

**A:** Effective immediately, MPI has made changes to the benefits provided you, including permitting a hardship withdrawal from your Individual Account Plan (IAP), a one-time premium waiver of medical premiums for those enrolled in the Active Health Plan, no co-payment or co-insurance for those receiving a telemedicine appointment from LiveHealth Online or Amwell, no out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, and early prescription refills. **For full information on these benefit changes, please visit the MPIPHP website: [www.mpiphp.org](http://www.mpiphp.org). None of the changes to the MPI Plans will impact your ability to apply for assistance through MPTF to the Teamsters Local 399 Recovery Fund.**