

## Disaster Relief Housing Assistance Fund (DRHA)

### A Program of Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County

Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County is a 501c3 nonprofit anti-poverty agency celebrating its fiftieth year of service in Sonoma County. Community Action agencies across the country are dedicated to addressing local needs of low income families and individuals.

Last week our county had a devastating fire leaving thousands homeless and/or unemployed. In response to this new need, our agency has reimagined an existing program to assist the most vulnerable of our community who are without homes or have lost income due to the fire thus risking their housing status.

For the last twenty years, thanks to an amazing funder (who wishes anonymity); our agency had provided rental, mortgage or security deposit assistance to people at risk of becoming homeless. We have started a new fund based on the model of that program for people who need immediate disaster relief housing assistance.

The Disaster Relief Housing Assistance Fund will provide:

- Short term (three months) of rental assistance per household: up to \$900 for month one, and declining in increments of \$100 for the second and third month
- One time security deposit assistance up to \$1600 per household.

Rental assistance can be used for room rental, hotel rooms, apartment or home rent, RV or mobile home park rentals. Case managers will work with clients to determine the monetary need up to the limits that have been established by the fund.

Eligibility:

- Households who lost their housing and/or source of income due to the fires
- Assistance must be used to reside in Sonoma County
- Low income families with children\*
- Households not eligible for FEMA
- Households who have filled out intake forms at the Local Assistance Center administered through the county

\*Published Sonoma County poverty levels will be used to determine low income eligibility.

Families can fill out intake forms at the Local Assistance Center if they want to apply for this assistance.

To date we have received funding from the Resilience Fund at Community Foundation Sonoma County and our current housing program funder (anonymous). We are seeking to serve an extraordinary need during this recovery period, and believe that need may total \$500K for this program. If you are interested in supporting our disaster relief effort or if you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact me.

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