

DiStefano Family Care Fund

The DiStefano Family Care Fund is a financial resource for older adults, age 60 plus who live in the Merrimack Valley and North Shore and are actively working with a staff member at Elder Services. They must be in need of immediate assistance and have had all other means and resources exhausted. Funds may be used in a variety of ways that tailor the need to each situation. Items of basic necessity like extra food, fuel or medication can be purchased and other needs may also be approved such as moving costs, payment of a utility bill or respite care for a 24/7 caregiver.

Eligibility

Any person, age 60 plus who needs financial help with a unique or emergency situation may be eligible. An in-home assessment of individual situations and circumstances are reviewed, along with other financial means. If none are found, the DiStefano Family Care Fund may be used.

Services

The DiStefano Family Care Fund is most often used to purchase items described as basic necessities such as prescriptions, food, fuel and shelter. The Fund may be used to cover the cost of short-term home care services, respite or home health care, if there is no other payment source. In each instance, it is tailored to meet the individual need.

Cost

Each situation is assessed on a case-by-case basis. Generally, there is no cost to the elder. In some situations, the DiStefano Family Elder Care Fund will cost share with the family or the elder. Individuals are always given an opportunity to pay back their award to help replenish the DiStefano Family Care Fund.

Requests

If a client is in need of emergency help or in-home services, the consumer or a representative should call the consumer's assigned staff person at the agency.

Financial Support of the DiStefano Family Care Fund

The DiStefano Family Elder Care Fund is solely supported by fund-raising events and activities, foundations and private contributions. Gifts, in any amount, are always welcome and can be made directly to the DiStefano Family Care Fund. Contributions can also be made to celebrate special people or events or to honor someone's life with a memorial gift.

