



**Amherst
Community
Connections**

Housing is THE Solution to Homelessness

121 N Pleasant St. PO Box 141, Amherst MA 01004
(413) 345-0737

The People's Fund

Guidelines:

1. The People's Fund exists as the result of the generosity of people in the Pioneer Valley/Five College areas.
2. The Fund is created to meet the basic and critical needs of people in a timely manner.
3. To address the urgent nature of the needs, our goal is to dispense funds on the same day—once requirements are met.
4. The Fund is meant to be complement, NOT replace, other charitable funds and services in the area. We will refer and help applicants to apply for other eligible funds.
5. Local residents or visitors with **MassHealth or SNAP** benefits and have exhausted their personal financial resources are eligible to apply for the Fund.
6. To ensure the accessibility for the Fund by all those in need, applicants are eligible only **ONCE** in their lifetime.
7. To ensure that applicants' basic and critical needs are met, follow-up assistance from ACC or other human service agencies is required.
8. Referral by other social service agencies is welcome and encouraged.
9. The Fund will be made out and sent to a third party only. No cash will be given.

Eligible requests:

1. **Basic critical needs:** Food, diapers, personal hygiene items, etc.
2. **Housing:** with 14-day notice to quit.
3. **Utility shut-off:** with a shut-off notice
4. **Medication:** for MassHealth co-payment
5. **Transportation:** for bus passes to medical or social service appointment
6. **Employment:** for job-related clothing/uniform
7. **ID/Birth certificate:** for job/housing/public benefit application purposes

Application Process:

1. Complete The People's Fund application form (print it online or pick up paper copy).
2. **Bring all necessary documents (14-day notice to quit, utility shut-off notice, etc.).**
3. Complete intake with ACC staff or bring a referral note from a social service agency.
4. Schedule a follow-up appointment with ACC or other social service agencies.
5. For emergency, call 413-345-0737 during off hours.