

**Union** ★  
**Update**

**OPEIU**  
Local



*For Local 8 Members at Low Income Housing Institute*

September 26, 2022

## **Economic Relief for Homeless Service Workers**

If you are a homeless service worker in Washington State, you may be eligible to receive a stipend up to \$4,000.

Homeless service providers working in Washington state with an immediate economic need and income at or below 80 percent of the county area median income where they live may be eligible for a stipend up to \$2,000 starting this fall, with a second stipend of \$2,000 available six months later (for those working for the same eligible organization).

Homeless service providers are considered those who are working directly on-site with persons experiencing homelessness or residents of transitional or permanent supportive housing. Whether you're working with an eligible organization full-time or part-time, as an employee or contractor, you may qualify!

### **Individuals are eligible for the stipend if they meet all the following requirements:**

You work full-time or part-time or as an independent contractor directly on-site with persons experiencing homelessness or residents of transitional or permanent supportive housing.

You currently work for an 'eligible entity. An eligible entity is any organization that contracts with a Washington state city or county providing homeless services.

All applicants must be employed by an eligible entity in Washington State.

**You have an immediate economic need including but not limited to:** Rent or mortgage payments; Utilities and other household bills; Medical expenses; student loan payments; Transportation related costs; Childcare-related costs; Behavioral health-related costs; Other basic necessities.

*\*Applicants must self-attest to having one or more of the "immediate economic needs" identified above.*

**Your income is at or below 80% of county area median income in the county you live in.**

The Area Median Income (AMI) describes the midpoint of an area's income distribution, where 50 percent of households earn above the median figure while 50 percent earn less than the median.

- The 80% AMI threshold is relative to the **COUNTY** where the applicant lives.
- [Check your AMI](#) using the Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) website.

*\*If you are not confident in calculating or unable to check the AMI, the program administrator will verify it for you.*

**You do not need to be 18 years of age or older to be eligible.**

**You must apply for each \$2,000 stipend separately. Applications for stipend #1 open September 29, 2022. To be eligible for both stipends, you must apply for stipend #1 by November 23, 2022. Applications for stipend #2 open March 23, 2023.**

**More information can be found at: <https://www.homelessworkerstipend.com/>**

You will need to the following required documents to apply:

1. Recent Pay Stub from Eligible Organization  
(Pay stub must have been issued within the last 90 days of application submission)
2. Copy of photo ID to verify identity. Examples of eligible forms of ID include the following:

- Valid Driver's License
- Birth Certificate
- State-issued Identification Card
- Student Identification Card
- Military Identification Card
- Passport or Passport Card

*Note: no documents are required to demonstrated economic need or to affirm you are a homeless service worker. These requirements will be achieved through self-attestation.*

Once you have your documents ready, please visit <https://www.homelessworkerstipend.com/application-checklist> to create an account and apply for the homeless service providers stipend.

1. Hit Apply Now: You will be directed to the program administrator's FORWARD platform.
2. Create an account: FORWARD created a video to help you create your account ([you can access the video here](#)).
3. Start your application

***If you have questions, please contact OPEIU 8 Main office at 1-800-600-2433 or 206-441-8880 or [visit our website](#) to find the Union Representative for your workplace.***



**OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8**

1-800-600-2433 or 206-441-8880 ★ Fax: 206-441-0207 ★ [www.opeiu8.org](http://www.opeiu8.org)

Find us on  [www.facebook.com/OPEIULocal8](https://www.facebook.com/OPEIULocal8)

iluna#242/ef-cio