
What is the Financial Assistance Program?

CCSS's Financial Assistance program helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking access short-term financial support for self-identified needs that promote safety, stability, and healing. The funds are flexible, meaning **you decide what expenses to request support for**, based on your situation.

Who is eligible?

To qualify, you must:

- Be a victim/survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or dating violence.
- Identify specific needs related to your experience.

What kinds of expenses can be covered?

Below are some examples. This is not a complete list:

- Rent or utility bills
- Household Items/Furnishings
- Food and baby supplies
- Transportation (bus/train passes, gas cards, Uber)
- Childcare costs
- School-related expenses (fees, uniforms)
- Clothing Assistance
- Medical or dental costs
- Prescriptions
- Legal fees (not covered by Legal Aid)
- Safety-related costs (lock changes, security systems)
- Car repairs
- Identification (ID, birth certificates)
- Relocation or hotel stays in emergency situations

Are there limits to the use of financial assistance?

Financial Assistance is intended to give relief to individuals and families during times of crisis, not to provide for ongoing basic needs. A variety of needs can be met through this program, and all requests will be considered if they meet the above eligibility.

How do I apply?

You can start the process by contacting:

- **Our 24/7 Hotline – via Phone/Text:** (708) 429-SAFE (7233)
- **Email:** assistance@crisisctr.org
- **If you are a current CCSS client, your advocate, counselor, or case manager will assist you.**

You'll be asked questions like:

- What types of assistance are you seeking?
- What vendors or providers would we need to pay?
- Can you provide documents like a bill, quote, or lease?
- We will also collect basic demographic data and will need to understand your experience of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or dating violence.

What documentation will I need to provide?

- A completed monthly budget or self-certification of need
- Bills, Quotes, or Invoices for assistance needed
- Multiple quotes may be required for requests that exceed certain thresholds
- W-9 from the vendor maybe needed in certain circumstances, with your approval your advocate can assist with all of the above

How will payment work?

- We typically **pay vendors directly** (landlords, utility companies, car repair shops, etc.)
- We will work with you to find the safest and most confidential way to make payments.

Will this affect my benefits or taxes?

- In some cases, financial assistance may affect programs like SNAP, SSI, or other public benefits.
- It may be treated as income for tax purposes.
- Your advocate will talk with you about these possibilities so you can make an informed decision, however we cannot give tax advice. If you remain concerned, we advise you to contact a tax professional.

What if I'm concerned about safety?

- Our team is trained in trauma-informed support and safety planning.
- If you are in danger or concerned about confidentiality, we will work with you to find safety while receiving assistance.
- Our 24-hour hotline may be contacted if you need after hours support in a crisis.

Can I appeal if my request is denied?

Yes. If your request is denied or only partially approved, you may request a review with a supervisor to reconsider the decision.

Your voice and needs guide this program.

All information you provide is confidential and will only be shared with your permission.

Please reach out to your CCSS advocate or case manager for more information or contact our Hotline to begin the application process.