

## **DIRECTORS GUILD FOUNDATION (DGF) COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund FAQ**

### **Q: What is the DGF COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund?**

A: On April 2, the Directors Guild Foundation (DGF) announced the creation of the DGF COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund to aid members facing financial crisis. With the coronavirus pandemic continuing to impact entertainment industry workers as film, television and commercial productions remain suspended indefinitely, the Trustees of the DGF voted unanimously to establish a separate COVID-19 relief fund. The new Fund will support members of the Directors Guild of America (DGA) affected by the shutdowns with \$1,000 financial relief grants. The DGF COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund grants will exist alongside the Foundation's longstanding interest-free loan program that offers aid to members experiencing financial hardships and emergencies.

### **Q: Who will be administering the DGF Emergency Relief Fund?**

A: The Motion Picture and Television Fund (MPTF) will administer the Fund on behalf of the DGF. The DGF, DGA and MPTF for decades have had a close relationship, with the Foundation and Guild providing longstanding financial support to MPTF – including millions of dollars of contributions to the general MPTF fund, and the direct backing of many programs such as a 10-year Alzheimer's study benefitting the entertainment community.

### **Q: How do I qualify for financial assistance from the DGF Emergency Relief Fund?**

A: To qualify, an individual must:

- Be a DGA member in good standing (member number required);
- Have been working on a production at the time of the suspension of production in March; OR had a commitment to begin work on a production suspended at that time (documentation will be required);
- Have less than \$10,000 in liquid assets (bank statements will be required);
- Have a demonstrated need.

### **Q: Who makes the eligibility determination?**

A: Members can call MPTF on its hotline – (888) 356-0537 – or contact them through the website: [www.mptf.com](http://www.mptf.com) for more information and to apply. An experienced MPTF social worker will help members determine if they are eligible, and will walk them through an expedited application process.

### **Q: Can you describe the application process?**

A: The process begins with a call to the MPTF hotline (888) 356-0537. DGA members will speak to an MPTF social worker who will assess their eligibility and specific circumstances/needs. Members will be asked to provide information and documentation about the project they were working on prior to the shutdown; or documentation indicating acceptance of a job offer for an upcoming show that was suspended such as a deal memo,

email (or some other form of documentation). Next, the assigned social worker will walk the member through the process of applying for financial assistance, which includes the completion of a financial assistance application and providing current bank statements showing the most recent 30 day transaction history and account balances. The MPTF will work with the Directors Guild Foundation to confirm recent employment and that the applicant is a DGA member in good standing. If approved, the financial assistance will be granted directly to the member. Members will be notified by their assigned social worker of the determination.

**Q: How long will it take from the time I apply and provide all the documentation to the time I am confirmed as eligible and get assistance?**

A: This depends on the volume of calls MPTF is experiencing. Current turnaround time is approximately 7-10 business days.

**Q: What amount of financial assistance might I receive?**

A: The DGF Emergency Relief Fund grants are \$1,000.

**Q: If I am collecting unemployment or receiving any other kind of federal or state relief under recently passed legislation, am I still eligible for this financial assistance from my union?**

A: Yes. The DGF Emergency Relief Fund will supplement unemployment relief its members are receiving as a result of the loss of work from the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the Directors Guild-Producer Pension and Health Plan's Board of Trustees approved temporary changes to coverage in response to the evolving coronavirus pandemic. That includes allowing participants whose dependent premiums are due on April 1st to defer payment of dependent premiums until July 1<sup>st</sup>; the waiving of all patient cost sharing (i.e., co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles) for COVID-19 related testing; and expanding coverage to include telemedicine/telepsychology visits until further notice. **For full information on these benefit changes, please visit the Plan's website at [www.dgaplans.org](http://www.dgaplans.org).**

**Q: If both members of my household are DGA members, are we each able to apply for financial assistance from the DGF Emergency Relief Fund and if eligible will we each receive the full amount of the grant?**

A: Yes and yes. All eligible members of the DGA will be considered for this plan individually and grants will be determined and made on an individual basis. If the household shares finances, we will be looking for a bank statement with less than \$20,000 to determine financial assistance.

**Q: There are other entertainment industry emergency relief programs that have been announced, like those from IATSE, SAG-AFTRA, the Actors' Fund and Netflix. Can I apply to those programs for financial assistance as well?**

A: No. Given the anticipated demand for financial support from union members, we are working with these organizations to limit the support to individuals right now to a single grant of \$1,000. We must do the most good for the most impacted of our brothers and sisters right now.

**Q: Is this financial assistance a one-time relief or may I apply again in the future?**

A: This is a measure for the moment and the DGF will be following new developments, so we cannot answer that definitively right now. We will be monitoring the number of DGA members that qualify for the financial assistance under the parameters that have been set and will also look to determine if there is funding for additional relief.