

**UTILITY
EMERGENCY
SERVICES
FUND**



*Working toward housing stabilization
for Philadelphia families in need*

Resource Guide for Assistance

215-972-5170

www.uesfacts.org

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Utility Emergency Services Fund
1617 JFK Blvd, Suite 490 * Philadelphia, PA 19103
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UESF would like to thank the following organizations for providing the necessary resources and support to make our programming possible:

AEGON

City of Philadelphia

Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO)

Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW)

Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)

Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation (PWDC)

Rudolf Ellis Gratuity Fund

The Philadelphia Foundation

The United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania

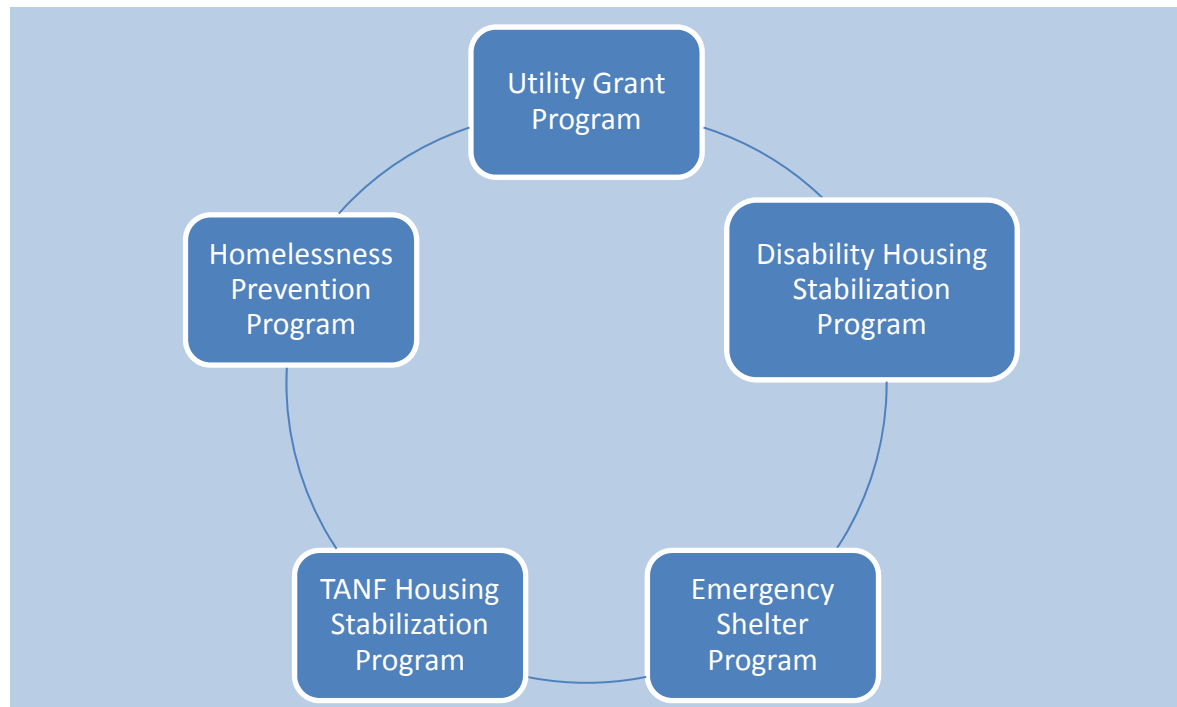
W.W. Smith Charitable Trust

Disclaimer: *The details of each assistance program listed on the following pages are current as of October 2010, but are subject to change. Every attempt is made to be current and accurate. Please confirm all program criteria with UESF before applying for assistance.*

UESF at a Glance

Since 1983, **Utility Emergency Services Fund (UESF)** has provided over \$65 million of utility assistance to over 150,000 families, assisting these families to achieve new starts. Every dollar we provide through our Utility Grant Program is matched by PECO, the Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW), or the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD).

By focusing on the need for utility assistance as part of a larger **housing stabilization issue**, **UESF** has expanded its scope to assist vulnerable families with rent and mortgage, as well as provide counsel and referral on an array of energy, energy related and other issues.



1. Utility Grant Program

Description

UESF provides financial assistance to low income individuals and families who are facing utility terminations or who have had their utilities already terminated. PECO, the Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW), and the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) provide matching funds in the form of dollar for dollar utility bill credits.

UESF's financial assistance is the **last resort**, especially when the federally-funded LIHEAP and Crisis programs are closed. **UESF** assistance, the matching utility bill credit, and any contribution by the individual **must zero out the utility bill** so that the customers receive fresh starts. **UESF** assistance is available to individuals and families only every two years.

To be considered for assistance, an individual/family must:

- Have utility termination notice or have utility terminated;
- Be a Philadelphia resident;
- Not have received a **UESF** grant in the past 24 months;
- Apply for LIHEAP Cash and Crisis programs when available, prior to applying to **UESF**;
- Be within 175% of the Federal Poverty Level:

Family Size	Yearly Income	Monthly Income
1	\$18,953	\$1,579
2	\$25,498	\$2,125
3	\$32,043	\$2,670
4	\$38,588	\$3,216
5	\$45,133	\$3,761
6	\$51,678	\$4,306
7	\$58,223	\$4,852
8	\$64,768	\$5,397

*** Add \$6,545 for each additional household member

Maximum amounts of assistance available

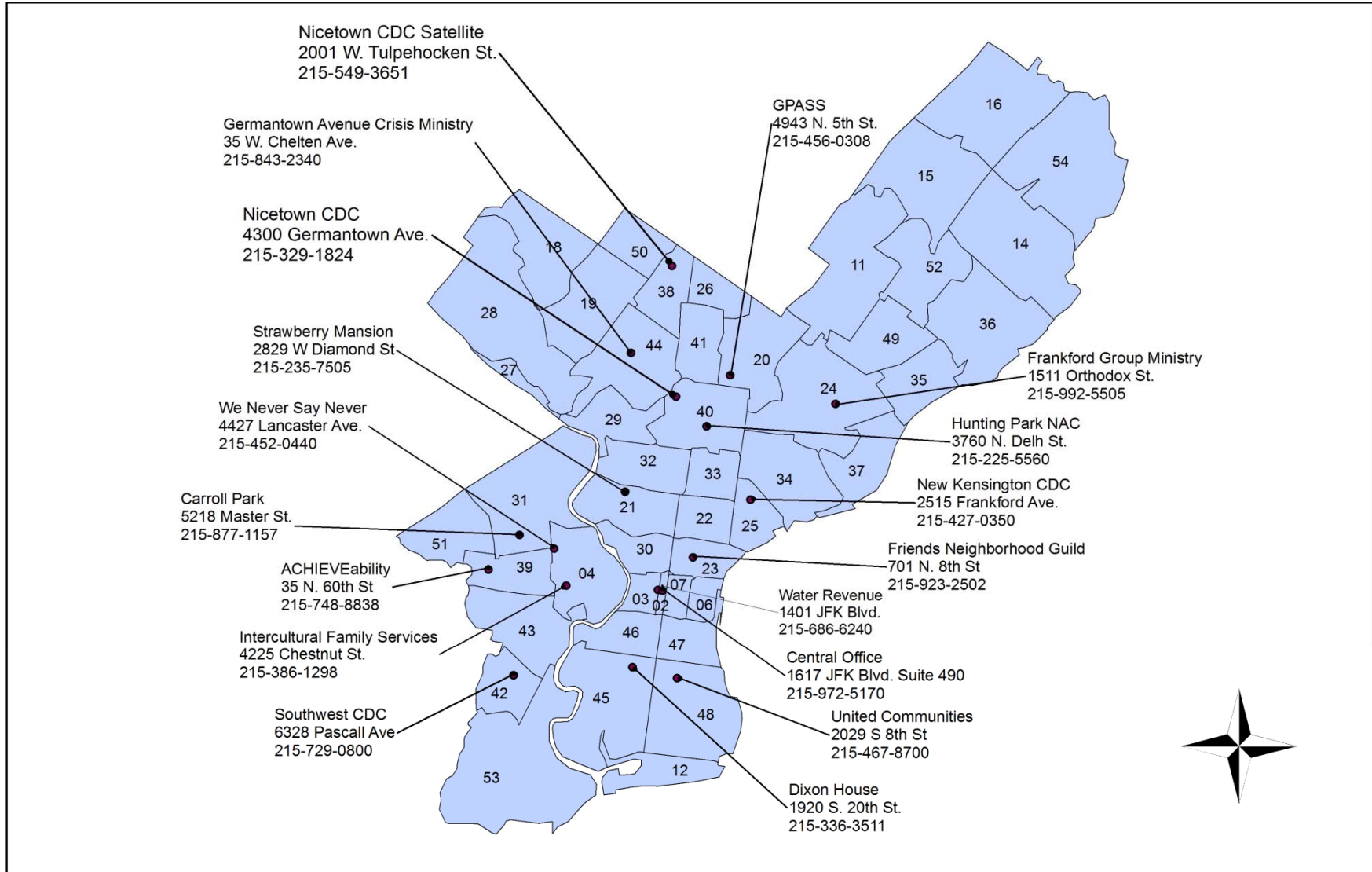
The maximum amount of assistance for individual utilities, including the **UESF** grant plus the matching utility bill credit, is either \$500 or \$1,500, depending upon the funding source, for electric (PECO); \$1,500 for gas (PGW); or \$500 for water (PWD).

Intake

Individuals can access the Utility Grant Program at any one of the **UESF Intake Sites**, and at the **UESF Central Office**. At these sites, they can also receive access to a vast array of other energy, energy related, and other services. *(Please see Intake Site Map on following page.)*



UESF Intake Sites by Zip Code



2. Homelessness Prevention Program

Description

Through the Homelessness Prevention Program, **UESF** assists individuals and families in rental housing and those residing in emergency and transitional housing facilities. If eligible, **payments for rental arrearages and/or future rental payments may be made.** Funds may also be used for security deposits and moving/storage costs. Linkages to other needed services including housing counseling, basic money management, credit repair, legal services, child and family in-home supportive services, and behavioral health programs are identified and established.

Families may be eligible for utility assistance if they receive a utility termination notice or have had their utility terminated, the termination is in violation of the families' rental lease agreement, and if the family is not eligible for any other local, state, or federal assistance.

To be considered for assistance, an individual/family must:

- Be a Philadelphia resident;
- Currently reside in an unsubsidized housing unit (private market apartment/home);
- Be at risk for homelessness, be a victim of domestic violence, or live in a rental unit that is unfit for habitation;
- Have a court ordered eviction notice for rental assistance;
- Have a household income at or below 50% of the area median income which is:

Family Size	1 person	2	3	4	5	6
Monthly Income	\$2,145	\$2,875	\$3,606	\$4,337	\$5,068	\$5,799

Maximum amounts of assistance available

Eligible families may receive assistance at a level of \$2,500, or more, if authorized.

Intake

Individuals can access the Homelessness Prevention Program through the **UESF** Central Office

3. TANF Housing Stabilization Program

Description

UESF is working in partnership with the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation (PWDC) to assist EARN Center participants, as well as individuals from the Job Specific Skills Training (JSST) and Pregnant and Parenting Youth (PPY) Programs with utility, rental/mortgage and security deposit assistance to avoid utility shut-off, restore utility service, prevent eviction or foreclosure, and assist in relocation.

To be considered for assistance, an individual/family must:

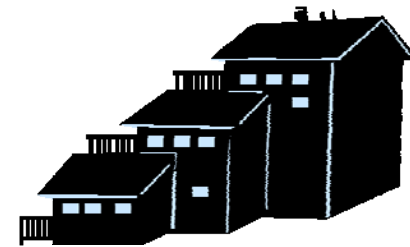
- Be active in an EARN, PPY or JSST center;
- For utility assistance, have a shut-off notice or have utility terminated;
- For rental assistance, have received an eviction notice, a court ordered eviction notice, or a notice to quit;
- For mortgage assistance, have received an *Act 91 Notice* or *Letter of Intent to Foreclose*.

Maximum amounts of assistance available

Eligible families may receive up to \$3,000, consisting of up to \$1300 each toward PECO, PGW, rent, and mortgage bills, and up to \$500 each toward water and oil bills. PECO, PGW, and the PWD provide matching funds.

Intake

Individuals can access the TANF Housing Stabilization Program through EARN Centers.



4. Emergency Shelter Program

Description

Through the Emergency Shelter Program, **UESF** provides emergency rental/mortgage assistance and utility assistance to individuals and families who have been impacted by the current economic conditions, are recently unemployed, are actively seeking employment and for whom no other resources are available. In order to increase the likelihood that they maintain their housing, **UESF** refers all participants directly to PA CareerLink for employment services, including the development of individual plans to obtain employment.

To be considered for assistance, an individual/family must:

- Have assistance result in an additional 30 days of service;
- Have rent, mortgage, and/or utility bill(s) in arrears or due within 5 calendar days;
- Have a household income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level:

Family Size	1 person	2	3	4	5	6
Annual Income	\$16,245	\$21,855	\$27,465	\$33,075	\$38,685	\$44,295

Families can apply for rent/mortgage and utility assistance.

Only one month's payment for emergency rent, mortgage (principal and interest only) and utility assistance can be provided.

Residents of Public Housing are not eligible

Maximum amounts of assistance available

For eligible individuals and families:

- Payments may be made for the highest monthly bill for each utility and rent or mortgage.
- Payment is limited to a maximum of one month's assistance for each individual or household and one month's usage cost for each utility for each individual or household.

Intake

Individuals can access the Emergency Shelter Program through the **UESF** Central Office

5. Disability Housing Stabilization Program

Description

UESF provides back utility, back and ongoing rent, back and ongoing mortgage, fuel oil and security deposit assistance to eligible persons. Individuals are referred to the program through **UESF's** existing programs and through ongoing outreach to organizations throughout the city serving people with disabilities.

To be considered for assistance, an individual/family must:

- Be a Philadelphia resident;
- Have suffered a hardship as a result of a catastrophic medical event in the immediate family resulting from a natural disaster, a national emergency, or a personal or family crisis beyond an individual's control;
- Have a household income at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Level; higher income levels can be approved in exceptional cases.

Family Size	1 person	2	3	4	5	6
Annual Income	\$18,953	\$25,498	\$32,043	\$38,588	\$45,132	\$51,152

Maximum Amounts of Assistance Available

For eligible individuals and families, support is limited to \$3,000. Higher amounts may be approved in exceptional cases.

Intake

Individuals can access the Disability Housing Stabilization Program through the **UESF** Central Office.

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