



## IATSE Local 44 Relief Fund FAQ



### **Q: What is the IATSE Local 44 Relief Fund?**

**A:** On July 14, 2023, the Local 44 Executive Board approved the release of a quarter of a million dollars to support Local 44 members that have been impacted by the industry slowdown since the onset of 2023, as well as the WGA strike which began on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and the SAG-AFTRA strike which began on July 14, 2023. *This fund is NOT available to Local Union staff.*

### **Q: Who will be administering the Local 44 Relief Fund?**

**A:** MPTF (the Motion Picture and Television Fund /[www.mptf.com](http://www.mptf.com)) has been designated as the fund's administrator. Local 44 and MPTF have a long-standing relationship and have worked together in the past to support the industry workforce in hard times. MPTF has been provided guidelines of eligibility and will be the only entity that holds, approves, and disperses the money included in the fund. It should be noted that MPTF's team will do a full assessment to see all resources that a member might be eligible for, outside of simply this fund. Their approach to care is very thorough to help the most amount of industry workers to the best of their ability across all areas of need.

### **Q: How do you qualify for financial assistance from the IATSE Local 44 Relief Fund?**

**A:** There are several pieces to establishing your eligibility to ensure the funds are being distributed to those most in-need and those that have regularly worked in the industry prior to 2023.

- Provide either a 2022 or 2023 Paystub reflecting Local 44 union work in the **Motion Picture Industry**.
- IATSE Local 44 member in 'Good-Standing' (**NOT** on *Withdrawal, Suspended, paying off Initiation or Retired*). Membership status to be confirmed by Local 44.
- Demonstrable financial assistance requested. (Members will be required to complete an application, provide banks statements and bill(s) they are requesting help with.)
- **\$10,000 or less** in allowable liquid assets, not to include retirement funds such as IAP, Annuities, or IRA's.

- Up to **\$1,500** grants, funds will be issued directly to member's designated vendors by MPTF.

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

**A:** MPTF has been designated as the fund administrator to establish eligibility. They will work closely with Local 44. Should a member apply and NOT be in good standing and therefore determined ineligible for this specific fund, MPTF will still look for ways to support a member if there are other services or funds available.

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

**A:** For Local 44 members seeking financial support, the process begins with a call to the MPTF hotline (323) 634-3888. **Please provide the information asked for on the hotline.** Members' calls will be returned by an MPTF social worker who will assess their eligibility and specific circumstances/needs.

Next, the assigned social worker will walk the member through the process of applying for financial assistance including completion of an application. If approved, the financial assistance will not go to the Member directly but will instead cover bill(s) directly, so MPTF will need a copy of these as well. 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 **5 to 7 business days.**

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

**A:** The Local 44 Relief Fund grants are roughly **up to \$1,500.** As mentioned above, these grants do not go directly to Members, but rather to those designated vendors (*banks for mortgages or car payments, utility company, landlord, healthcare providers or insurers*) provided to MPTF.

**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 Local 44 Relief Fund will supplement any other form of relief its members are receiving because of the loss of work.

**Q: If my household has more than one member of the Local 44 that regularly work in the Motion Picture Industry, will we be treated differently? Will we both be eligible for a financial grant, or will we be treated as a single household?**

**A:** Yes, and yes. All eligible members of Local 44 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 shared bank statement with less than \$20,000 to determine financial assistance.

**Q: I have seen announcements recently of additional financial support funds through MPTF. Can I apply to those sources as well?**

**A:** We are working with MPTF to ensure that the greatest number of eligible industry Members have the opportunity for a single grant of financial assistance for the highest amount of support. Members will receive only one grant but will receive the largest grant available at the time.

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

**A:** We cannot answer that definitively right now, Local 44 needs to see how many of the members qualify for financial assistance under the parameters that have been set and then determine if there is funding for additional relief. Given the uncertainties around the duration of this situation, our advice today would be to assume that it is one-time.

**Q: If I am denied application due to Union-Standing, but I believe this to be incorrect, who would I contact?**

**A:** First call should be to Local 44 to review your account.