



Southeastern Credit Union Foundation Disaster Relief Application Process

As the 501(c)(3) public charity for the League of Southeastern Credit Unions & Affiliates, the Southeastern Credit Union Foundation (SECUF) is committed to assisting credit union employees and their volunteers when disasters and/or tragedies take place in our local communities. To take full advantage of the benefits offered to credit unions during times of catastrophic disasters such as tropical storms, floods, fires, hurricanes, etc., below is an outline of the Foundation's disaster relief plan.

Phase I Emergency Disaster Relief Grants are provided to credit union employees and volunteers to assist with immediate disaster relief needs, such as out-of-pocket costs that may result from being evacuated, damages caused by power outages and/or power surges, and damage to the primary residence. These grants are up to \$2,500 per credit union employee and volunteer, up to 90 days after disaster strikes. These grants intend to help stabilize the individual's situation, so they can return to work and have a safe shelter.

Step One: Each employee or volunteer needing emergency assistance should complete a Phase I Emergency Disaster Relief Grant application online and submit it to the Southeastern Credit Union Foundation. Grant applications may also be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the Foundation. A report of employees requesting assistance will be sent to each credit union CEO to sign off on before committee review.

Applications are available on the Foundation website at <https://www.lscu.coop/foundation/disaster.php>.

Step Two: Grant applications will be reviewed by the SECUF Disaster Relief Committee and applicants will be notified via email of the decision.

Step Three: Approved grants will be processed by the Accounting division of the LSCU. All grant payments will be issued by check or electronic deposit into the applicant's account (if available).

If credit union employees need IMMEDIATE financial assistance, they are also encouraged to seek out additional disaster relief resources which may include:

- American Red Cross (www.redcross.org)
- FEMA (www.fema.gov)
- United Way (www.unitedway.org)
- Local Community Organizations & Churches

Phase II Disaster Relief Grants are intended to assist credit union employees and volunteers with significant needs. SECUF will send communication to the CEOs of Phase I grant recipients beginning 100 days after a disaster has struck. Grants could be distributed sooner if insurance claims have been received prior. Phase II grants are available for up to \$10,000, but the amounts of the individual grants will be dependent on the total disaster relief funds available.

Step One: Once credit union employees or volunteers have fully assessed their damages and out-of-pocket expenses, they may apply for a Phase II Disaster Relief Grant which will assist with unfulfilled disaster needs after other resources such as insurance, FEMA, and other sources have been used. Employees and volunteers must submit a Phase II Disaster Relief Grant application which must be signed and dated by the credit union CEO/Manager. Applicants need to provide as much detail as possible in these applications including pictures and insurance claim information.



Step Two: The SECUF Disaster Relief Committee will review and approve these grant requests. Notification will be made directly to the employee, with copies to the credit union CEO/Manager.

Phase III Disaster Relief Grants are intended to follow up with those credit union employees and volunteers who suffered catastrophic loss and are still needing assistance after Phase II grants have been distributed. Phase III grants will begin 180 days after the disaster, and grants depend upon the availability of grant dollars in the disaster relief fund.

Step One: SECUF staff will contact the credit union CEO of those applicants who received Phase II grants and inquire about the lasting effects and more severe damages to the individual's home. If the SECUF Disaster Relief Committee feels the need to move forward, the employee may apply for a Phase III Grant. Employees and volunteers must submit a Phase III Disaster Relief Grant application, which must be signed and dated by the credit union CEO/Manager. Applicants must provide as much detail as possible in this application.

Step Two: The SECUF Disaster Relief Committee will review and approve these grant requests. Notification will be made directly to the employee, with copies to the credit union CEO/Manager.

**Credit unions having branches with significant damage and/or that have been deemed inoperable due to a natural disaster or tragic event may also be eligible to apply for disaster relief grants and/or emergency assistance. Inquiries should be submitted via email to the SECUF Director at SECUF@lscu.coop.*

Contributions Made to Disaster Funds

Contributions to the Southeastern Credit Union Foundation's disaster relief fund are welcomed and appreciated by those affected by the respective disaster. Donations made to the disaster relief fund are considered restricted dollars and may only be used to fund needs related to the disaster.

Once Phase I emergency grants have been distributed and damage assessments have been made to determine Phase II and III needs, there may be monies left in the fund. Please note that monies unused in the disaster relief fund will be saved for future disaster occurrences. Again, these funds are restricted and can only be used to assist credit union staff and board volunteers in the event of a natural disaster and/or tragic event.