



## APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE - FAQ

The Actors' Fund of Canada  
1000 Yonge Street, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario M4W 2K2  
Telephone: 416-975-0304 Toll-free: 1-877-399-8392  
Fax: 416-975-0306 E-mail: [contact@actorsfund.ca](mailto:contact@actorsfund.ca)

The Actors' Fund of Canada is currently engaged in a national outreach campaign to increase awareness of the service it provides to the entertainment industry community and to inform community members about how they can participate. By way of introduction, here are some of the most frequently asked questions about the Fund and their answers:

### 1. WHAT IS THE ACTORS' FUND?

The Actors' Fund of Canada is a charity that was established in 1958 to provide emergency financial assistance to entertainment industry professionals in financial crisis. The Fund has helped thousands of entertainment industry colleagues to get back on their feet after illness, injury, sudden unemployment or other circumstances have made it impossible to meet their regular living expenses or have imposed an extraordinary financial burden.

### 2. COULD I GET HELP?

The Fund is available to people working in all aspects of the industry. If you are an entertainment industry professional and can demonstrate that you have made the majority of your living from work in the industry over the last three years (or, if retired, during your working life), you may be eligible for assistance.

### 3. SO, IF THE FUND HELPS EVERYONE, WHY IS IT CALLED THE ACTORS' FUND?

The Fund has its roots in the live theatre community and was started by six theatre people who wanted to help their own. The Fund's mandate has grown and now encompasses all professional disciplines in the performing arts. The Fund wants to ensure that no-one in our community who is genuinely in need should suffer because they don't know that the Fund is available for them.

### 4. WHAT KIND OF HELP COULD I GET?

The Fund can provide a wide variety of short-term assistance geared to helping people in need maintain their shelter, health and ability to work during a financial crisis. Rent, mortgage or utility payments, assistance with daily living expenses, and medical expenses not covered by insurance benefits are some of the items most commonly requested and received from the Fund. The monetary amount and kind of assistance given in each case depends on an assessment of each individual's particular circumstances. While the Fund is not always able to provide the assistance requested, every consideration is given to all applications.

### 5. WHAT CAN I EXPECT IF I CALL?

The Fund handles all applications for assistance with compassion and discretion. The application process begins with completion of the Fund's application form, which is can be obtained by mail or fax or picked up at the Fund's office. Application packages can also be downloaded from the Fund's web site at [www.actorsfund.ca](http://www.actorsfund.ca).

### 6. HOW LONG DOES ALL THIS TAKE?

About a week, from the time an application form is completed and depending on the nature of the request. Extremely urgent cases can often be dealt with in less time.

## **7. IF I RECEIVE FINANCIAL HELP FROM THE FUND, WOULD I HAVE TO PAY THE MONEY BACK?**

The Actors' Fund is a charity and provides financial assistance without expectation of repayment. However, the Fund depends upon support from individuals and entertainment industry organizations and donations are strongly encouraged from every entertainment industry member who is in a position to contribute.

## **8. HOW IS ALL THIS PAID FOR?**

The Fund encourages everyone in the community to contribute. The Fund enjoys wide support throughout the entertainment industry and contributions are made in many ways, including by way of benefit performances and audience collections at theatres, voluntary payroll deductions, and other donations or sponsorships from individuals or companies.

## **9. I WANT TO SUPPORT THE FUND. WHAT CAN I DO?**

Donations can also be made through mail, in person, or through the Fund's web site. The Fund also encourages individuals and companies to do benefit performances or other fundraising special events (contact the Actors' Fund office for details). The Fund has volunteer opportunities at various points throughout the year.

## **10. HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?**

For more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation, you can contact the Fund:

- by phone at (416) 975-0304 (Toll-free 1-877-399-8392)
- by fax at (416) 975-0306
- by e-mail at [contact@actorsfund.ca](mailto:contact@actorsfund.ca)
- by mail or in person at:

1000 Yonge Street, Suite 301  
Toronto, ON M4W 2K2

(If you wish to visit regarding an application, please phone us to make an appointment.)

Or visit the Fund's web site at [www.actorsfund.ca](http://www.actorsfund.ca).