

What do you know about the Home Fund?

1. *Who is eligible to receive a Home Fund grant and what is the money used for?*

Any resident of Minnesota who is “aged, indigent or infirmed” and needs assistance with life’s necessities is eligible for a Home Fund grant.

Men, women and children are eligible for a grant if their circumstances meet the criteria of the Home Fund guidelines. Grants may not be used to buy or repair automobiles, pay attorney’s fees, pay credit card debt, pay legally imposed fees (like child support or wage garnishments), pay off student loans, pay school tuitions, make house payments (but rent payments might be authorized) or do major capital improvements to dwellings.

2. *Are Home Fund Grants especially intended for emergencies?*

The Home Fund is not positioned as a resource for emergencies. The Home Fund board meets quarterly to review applications. Most grants take some time to set up since vendors have to be contacted and payment schedules set up. The Home Fund prefers to pay vendors rather than individual grantees. They prefer doing one-time grants as opposed to on-going grants. A one-time grant may be for a specified issue over a period of months. An example might be defined as providing \$400 a month in grocery money to a single family at a specified grocery store for four months.

3. *Who determines who gets Home Fund grants and where are the Home Fund meetings held?*

Five P.E.O. sisters from around the state served on the board of trustees for a 5-year period. They review the applications and decide the outcomes. There are two ex-officio members from the state board, the president and first vice president, who also attend meetings but do not vote. Most meetings are held in the Twin Cities area either in members’ homes or at Wells-Fargo Bank.

4. *How are the Board members chosen?*

They are appointed by members of the state board. Members are to represent all areas of the state. One member must be a past state president.

5. *When did the Home Fund get started?*

The Home Fund began in 1936 with a monetary gift of \$937. A love gift of \$437 was given by the members of the convention and state chapter funds of \$500 comprised the balance of the gift to start the fund. In 1974 the Home Fund was incorporated as a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation. This is strictly a Minnesota project and not a project of International Chapter.

6. *In order for applications to be considered, how should requests be made?*

Sisters may offer to help the applicant complete the application if asked, but because of the financial statement that is required, most applicants do their own. Complete applications should be sent to the

Home Fund chairman well in advance of the board meetings so trustees have adequate opportunity to review them.

7. *How many grants were given in 2008-2009?*

55 grants were made. The chairman had requests for 87 applications. Of those 59 were returned and 4 were denied.

8. *How much money was spent each month on grants?*

Grants averaged about \$17,530 per month.

9. *What sources of revenue does the Home Fund have?*

We have money invested with Wells-Fargo that generates income for us. Our portfolio is valued at about \$1.4 million. The income from these investments is the primary source of our funds.

5% of our annual dues go to the Home Fund. Most chapters also make a donation to the Home Fund in their annual gifts to other P.E.O. projects. Individuals give money in memory or in honor of someone.

The Home Fund has also been given gifts through trusts and wills. We have two long-standing gifts.

One is from the Laura G. Smith fund that generates several hundred dollars a year and the board specifies this as a specific gift. The Mary B. Patton trust provides us with about \$4,000 per month.

10. *What were the chapter gifts last year?*

\$34,002.59 according to the Minnesota Reports given out at state convention.

11. *Do applications require chapter approval?*

Absolutely not. The local chapter does not have to be involved in any part of the application process and potential applicants should not be discussed at chapter meetings. A sister may report that she has referred someone to the Home Fund but need not give further details. That person may be asked to write a letter of recommendation for the applicant.

12. *Where does the chapter keep their application forms?*

Chapters do not keep application forms. They are available from the Chairman of the Home Fund whose name is listed in your yearbook. You can call or email her for a form. She will get mailing instructions from you about where the grant application is to be sent.

13. *Are reports made back to the chapter about the status of applicants?*

The Home Fund board places great value on confidentiality regarding our recipients. No information will be given to chapters by the board. This information is for the applicant to share with you if they deem it appropriate.

“Recipient Puzzle” Written by Reva Haining, CH 2002

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