

CONTACT Us

CUSTOMERS:

To initiate an inquiry, call the **automated pre-screening line** at **(510) 272-3700**.

You will be asked to answer a series of questions using the keypad on your phone. Be prepared to provide basic information, including phone number(s), type and amount of assistance requested, and sources of household income. If you meet basic criteria for consideration, Intake Staff will contact you for additional screening. Please be advised that response time will fluctuate depending on the volume of callers.

COMMUNITY AGENCIES:

The Alameda County SOS program partners with community-based organizations on a limited basis and occasionally offers training sessions for caseworkers. Inquiries from agencies interested in becoming a Season of Sharing community partner may be sent to sos@acgov.org. Only agencies that have completed an orientation may submit applications on behalf of their clients. Please note that due to the volume of demand, the Social Services Agency (SSA) is unable to accept referrals from caseworkers not affiliated with the SSA.



Alameda County Social Services Agency
Season of Sharing • Program Office
2000 San Pablo Ave. Suite 445
Oakland, CA 94612

Pre-Screening Line: (510) 272-3700

Admin contact: (510) 271-9100

E-mail: sos@acgov.org

<https://seasonofsharing.org>

Alameda County
Social Services Agency

SEASON OF SHARING PROGRAM

IMPACTING LIVES for more than 30 YEARS.

*The Chronicle Season of Sharing Fund
provides one-time assistance to help people
experiencing an unexpected crisis.*



The Chronicle Season of Sharing Fund provides one-time assistance to help people living in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma counties. Over the last 30+ years, the Chronicle Season of Sharing Fund has raised more than \$120 million to help individuals and families in need.



The Chronicle SOS Fund provides annual funding to the Alameda County Social Services Agency to assist eligible households in Alameda County who demonstrate a critical need arising from emergency circumstances beyond their control. The Social Services Agency collaborates with more than three dozen community partner agencies to screen and process applications for assistance.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE CONSIDERED

Unexpected setbacks can cause “normal life” to turn into unfavorable conditions such as poverty and homelessness for individuals, families, and children. SOS is committed to help during these circumstances and get people back on their feet and on track again.

These are the primary categories of assistance considered under the Alameda County Season of Sharing Program



HOUSING ASSISTANCE (HA)

- ◆ **Security deposit** for permanent housing
- ◆ **Delinquent rent or mortgage**

CRITICAL FAMILY NEEDS (CFN)

- ◆ **Utilities (electricity, gas, or water)** under threat of shut-off or already shut off at current residence
- ◆ **Limited furniture items** under specific circumstances including fire/catastrophe, extended homelessness, and domestic violence.
- ◆ **Limited medical equipment and mobility aids** (deemed medically necessary and not otherwise covered by insurance).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- ◆ **Assistance is provided on a one-time basis.** Applicants are screened for prior funding.
- ◆ The program operates **year-round**. Eligible applicants can apply any time during the year.
- ◆ SOS is **crisis-based** and **not an entitlement program. Funding is not guaranteed.** Requests for assistance must be supported by a valid and documented crisis.
- ◆ **Proof of all income and ability to handle monthly financial obligations** on an ongoing basis is required. Priority is given to low-income households.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The program considers eligible households who are 1) experiencing a non-recurring crisis, remedied through a one-time assistance and 2) have exhausted all available financial resources (family assistance, savings, etc.)

Applicants must be current Alameda County residents (minimum 6 continuous months) who are one of the following:

- ◆ **Families with children** (under age 18) living in the home
- ◆ **Permanently disabled individuals** (18 years & older and receiving SSDI/SSI or medically verified)
- ◆ **Elderly Individuals**, age 55 and older
- ◆ **Emancipated/former foster youth**, ages 18-24
- ◆ **Veterans**
- ◆ **Victims of Domestic Violence and Violent Crimes** (occurrence within the past 6 months)
- ◆ **Pregnant Women** in their 2nd trimester or later



Documentation will be required to confirm each household's eligibility status. Simply meeting these criteria **DOES NOT** entitle or guarantee a household assistance. Grants are based not only on criteria being met, but also on merit and the greatest need.