



Emergency Assistance Programs

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Fast facts

- ▲ Hennepin County's emergency assistance program is housing related and aimed at preventing homelessness.

What are Hennepin County's emergency assistance programs?

Hennepin County provides financial assistance to residents experiencing an emergency, such as loss of housing or inability to pay utility bills, through three programs:

- Hennepin County Emergency Assistance Program (HCEAP) was created by Hennepin in 2003 after the state Legislature eliminated a similar statewide program. HCEAP is funded with a combination of state and federal dollars through the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Consolidated Fund.
- Emergency General Assistance (EGA) helps individuals, married couples or families who are in crisis and not eligible for HCEAP. EGA is funded via state dollars.
- Emergency Minnesota Supplemental Aid (EMSA) meets the emergency needs of people enrolled in Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), which provides a monthly cash supplement to people who are blind, disabled, elderly or who receive federal Social Security Income benefits.

How many are helped and at what cost?

In 2009, Hennepin paid out \$17.8 million through three emergency programs. Hennepin served the following numbers of people in the three emergency programs:

- HCEAP: Approximately 8,200 families - \$14.7 million (funding comes from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- EGA: Approximately 4,100 households - \$2.7 million (state funding)
- EMSA: Approximately 630 households - \$368,000 (state funding)