

Presented by Alvaro Flores
With Dorothea from SOS and
Dora from Catholic Charities (also works at SVDP in Pittsburg)

SOS Hotline: 925-521-5065

SF Chronicle Season of Sharing Fund 2016-17 Fund Total = \$8,127,135

Contra Costa County Allocation for 2016-17 = \$820,000

Contra Costa County is 2nd after Alameda County (based on # families) who receive SOS help.

SOS will pay up to \$3,000 towards rental deposit , current or delinquent rent. NOT FUTURE RENT.

Client can receive funds once every 5 yrs. (they check)

They process 15-40+ cases/month = 7-8 per week

99% of funds go towards Housing Assistance. 1% goes towards furniture, water, PG&E (special situation only).

Follow application directions “to the T”. YOU complete it with client present w/documentation.

GET APPLICATIONS FROM SOS OR STEVE KRANK AT SVDP IN PITTSBURG

SOS meets every Wednesday. Get your case to them by 4:30 Tuesday. The committee submits their approval to Alvaro. Catholic Charities cuts the check on Friday or following Monday.

ANY blanks or incomplete parts of the form results in a delay of 1-2 weeks.

If client gets Cal Works (welfare) or is on Food Stamps, the application must be done by their Social Worker. (Call SOS to get name/phone of social worker if client doesn't have).

Who Qualifies:

- Family with children = adult with kids, usually the mother (father or grandparent must have legal custody)
- Adults 55+
- Permanently disabled (must provide proof of SS benefits)
Exception would be severe/sudden illness (cancer)
- Foster Youth – Adults to age 25 who have been in the Foster care system/homes
- Pregnant woman – must be 2nd trimester (must be able to pay future rent)
- Veterans of any age (Shelter Inc. also has federal grant to help Vets)

Have client provide you with details/documents to verify the narrative YOU write about why they need help.

If application denied, you can ask what happened, fix it and re-apply.

Worker List of items to include – you can mark “yes or no”.

OK to pay if client on Section 8 Housing – must show voucher

SOS prefers to pay RENT only if more than \$3,000 is owed. Example of man who was in hospital for 6 months: When he got home, his PG&E bill was more than \$3000; also owed rent and water. Investigation showed that a neighbor was tapping into his PG&E meter.

Lost job

Domestic Violence – must have police or STAND report; must move to new city, not to different apartment in same complex.

- This type of case can also ask for furniture, since they usually leave everything behind.

SOS will give Deposit or 1st month rent....NOT BOTH.

Applicant must have been living in Contra Costa County for the last 6 months prior to their crisis. Can help people to move OUT of county, but no help for people moving INTO county.

If you have questions, email Alvaro: aflorez@ehsd.cccounty.us He will want their name and SS# to determine if they've applied previously. NO CHATTY Emails. Just tell him the question or info you want.

WHAT SOS DOES NOT PAY:

Moving costs, funeral expenses (only for parent or child), transportation (BART) plane tickets, funeral trips. Prescriptions, education, storage, DMV fees, Property Taxes. Moving because it's a "bad neighborhood". (only if client has been victim of violence and has police report). SOS does not re-pay loans, lawyer's fees, bail, legal fees, hotel, motel rooms.

LANDLORD MUST BE OWNER OF HOUSE. NO SUB-LEASE PAYMENTS.

SOS PAYS FOR ROOM RENTAL FOR DISABLED ONLY (and not if Landlord lives in the same house)

Also will pay for Mobile Home Park space (show lease)

APPLICATION GREEN SHEET is for Past, Present and Future financial situation.

Past can be either +/- . Present is when client is in crisis so shows "Minus". Future must always be a positive balance.

If 80% of income goes for rent, they are in trouble. \$1000 income; \$800 rent; only \$200 left for all other bills...not realistic.

PROOF – always. Worker story about client must include documentation. Short is better. Long story is complicated and means there will be more "stuff" for Alvaro to review. (and chance for error by worker).

NO SS # ?? – can use passport, Matricular card from Consulate.

SOS WILL NOT GIVE client SS#/Tax ID# to us.

If application is denied, Alvaro can't tell worker why, but client can call 925-521-5065 SOS HOTLINE to find out.