

Methodist Hospital Foundation

Date: April 26, 2024

Family Crisis Connection is now the Caring Coworkers Fund.

Caring Coworkers Fund FAQ's

Q: What is the Caring Coworkers Fund (CCF)?

A: The Caring Coworkers Fund (formerly Family Crisis Connection) is here to assist you and your Methodist co-workers in times of urgent financial need. Once every three years, qualifying employees are eligible for up to **\$1,000** in assistance.

We all need help sometimes. The Caring Coworkers Fund can relieve financial stresses by paying:

- Rents and mortgages
- Utility and cellphone bills
- Auto repairs
- Daycare costs
- Other unexpected expenses

As the new name indicates, the Caring Coworkers Fund is funded by Methodist employees for Methodist employees. Methodist Hospital Foundation runs the program.

Q: How do I get assistance through the Caring Coworkers Fund?

A: Contact a Caring Coworkers Representative to start the process. Reps are designated for each affiliate, but you can contact any of the people listed below.

Julie Raether Julianne.Raether@methodistcollege.edu	Nebraska Methodist College	MHF NP Dodge Bldg.	402-354-7256
Amy Monzingo Amy.Monzingo@bestcareeap.org	Nebraska Methodist Health System	Best Care EAP 9239 West Center Rd	402-354-8000
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Chaplain Melissa Strong Melissa.Strong@nmhs.org	Methodist Hospital	Spiritual Care Office	402-354-4016
Chaplain Mike McMahon Mike.McMahon@nmhs.org	Methodist Hospital	Spiritual Care Office	402-354-4016
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Chaplain Jerilyn "J" Buresh Jerilyn.buresh@nmhs.org	Methodist Hospital	Spiritual Care Office	402-354-4016
Chaplain Dorothy Lawson Dorothy.lawson@nmhs.org	Methodist Women's Hospital	Methodist Women's Hospital 192 nd & West Dodge Rd	402-815-1132
Chaplain Crystall Williams Crystall.Williams-Bonner@nmhs.org	Methodist Hospital	Spiritual Care Office	402-354-4016
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Kelli Petersen Kelli.Petersen@nmhs.org	Nebraska Methodist Health System	Human Resources 825 S.169 th St.	402-354-2210
Donna Wellwood Donna.Wellwood@nmhs.org	Shared Service Systems	Shared Service Systems 1725 South 20th Street	402-354-8316

Q: Who decides if an employee receives assistance from the Caring Coworkers Fund?

A: Employees will discuss their needs with a Caring Coworkers Representative. If a request for assistance is approved, the rep will work with Methodist Hospital Foundation on the employee's behalf.

Q: Are all employees eligible for assistance through the Caring Coworkers Fund?

A: Employees who have worked for Methodist Health System for **at least six months** are eligible for assistance. Employees working for Methodist Health System less than six months will be directed to Best Care EAP for professional guidance.

Q: What kind of assistance is available?

A: The Caring Coworkers Fund provides assistance up to **\$1,000**. Employees will not receive cash. Bills or invoices are submitted to the Caring Coworkers Representative who forwards them to Methodist Hospital Foundation. The Foundation makes payment on the employee's behalf.

Q: Can an employee be helped more than one time?

A: Employees are eligible to seek Caring Coworkers assistance once every three years. Employees can contact Best Care EAP for professional guidance at any time.

Q: Can employees offer contributions to benefit the Caring Coworkers Fund?

A: Yes! Gifts from employees make the Caring Coworkers Fund possible. Methodist Hospital Foundation is proud to accept your Caring Coworkers contributions at any time. During Caring Campaign, our annual employee giving campaign, you can support the Caring Coworkers Fund through ongoing payroll deductions, a one-time payroll deduction or cash. Paid-time-off (PTO) hours can also be converted into a donation. See below for the PTO conversion information. One hundred percent of your gift will benefit the Caring Coworkers Fund.

Q: How does a gift of paid-time-off (PTO) work?

A: Donating PTO has proven to be a very popular way for employees to make a gift. PTO hours are converted to cash and taxes are subtracted – at approximately 38 percent by IRS rule. The balance benefits the Caring Coworkers Fund.

Please note: PTO hours are NOT transferable directly between employees. PTO can only be donated in the year that it is accrued. By IRS rule, you may not donate any “banked” PTO hours.

Q: What is a Caring Coworkers Special Funded Effort?

A: A Caring Coworkers Special Funded Effort (SFE) is an opportunity for employees in a certain department/affiliate to rally around a specific co-worker-in-need. To begin the process, the employee-in-need will visit with a Caring Coworkers Representative. If the rep believes an SFE would be helpful, he or she will coordinate with the employee's supervisor and begin the gift collection process. Individual gift amounts and the names of donors are kept confidential. Again, no cash will be disbursed. Methodist Hospital Foundation will pay bills on the employee's behalf. The employee-in-need is encouraged to use all of the dollars generated on their behalf within one year of initiating the SFE.

Q: Why did we change the name from Family Crisis Connection?

A: We believe the Caring Coworkers Fund better represents the spirit of the program. It's about all of us pitching in to take care of each other – because we all need help sometimes. You don't have to be 'in crisis' to reach out. Maybe an unexpected auto repair will make it difficult to pay the rent. Get in touch. The Caring Coworkers Fund is intended to ease a financial burden before the situation becomes a crisis.