

# American Association for Respiratory Care Policy Statement

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Policy No.: BOD.024

SECTION: Board of Directors  
SUBJECT: **AARC Disaster Relief Fund**  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 1992  
DATE REVIEWED: Sept 2021  
DATE REVISED: October 2021

## REFERENCES:

**Policy Statement:** The AARC President may activate the Disaster Relief Fund to become available for AARC members upon the declaration of a federal or state-declared major disaster.

## **Policy Amplification:**

1. The AARC Executive Office will communicate to the AARC President and request activation of the fund. The President shall have the executive power to open the fund for any disaster situation that is negatively affecting AARC members, even if the disaster has not been officially declared by FEMA.
2. After the President's notice of activation, the Executive Office will post a story on the AARC website and current member communication sources that provides a link to the online application and additional information on the AARC website. The notice will specify that the fund is open only to parishes/counties that have been officially declared disaster areas by FEMA.
3. The Application review process will be conducted as follows:
  - a. Active, Life, Honorary and paid student members in good standing with the AARC (members with continuous membership of at least 2 months immediately preceding the event) prior to the onset of the disaster are eligible for the grant. Lapses in membership due to non-payment are subject to disqualification from this financial assistance.
  - b. The effected dwelling must be the primary residence of the member.
  - c. The member must complete an online application for assistance and submit it to the Executive Office.
  - d. Applications will only be accepted up to six months following the date the disaster was initially declared.
  - e. Upon receipt, the AARC Executive Office will verify that all required criteria are being met and notify the member of its status.

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4. After receipt of the grant request, it will be forwarded to the appropriate chartered affiliate president and affiliate delegates for review of accuracy and for approval. Once the affiliate president approval is received by the Executive Office, a check in the amount of \$1,000 will be distributed to the requestor member.
  
5. Recipients will also receive an additional year of membership at no cost.