

# American Association for Respiratory Care Policy Statement

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Policy No.: BOD.024

SECTION: Board of Directors  
SUBJECT: **AARC Disaster Relief Fund**  
Adopted: 1992  
Reviewed: Sept 2021  
REVISED: Mar 2022

## REFERENCES:

**Policy Statement:** The AARC President may activate the Disaster Relief Fund to become available for AARC members.

## **Policy Amplification:**

1. The AARC Executive Office will communicate to the AARC President and request activation of the fund. The President is authorized to open the fund for any disaster situation that is negatively affecting AARC members, even if the disaster has not been officially declared 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.
3. The Application review process will be conducted as follows:
  - a. Active, Life, Honorary, and paid student members in good standing with the AARC prior to the onset of the disaster are eligible for the grant. Members in good standing are defined as those with continuous membership of at least 2 months immediately preceding the event.
  - b. The effected dwelling must be the primary residence of the member.
    - This would exclude second homes, out-buildings, investment property, or a residence in which you live but is rental property.
    - In the event of mandatory evacuation, evacuating from your primary residence (which did not incur damage) or primary leased residence (which did not incur damage) may qualify for financial assistance for temporary lodging expenses. Receipts for lodging may be requested by the AARC. The amount of assistance granted will be determined accordingly based on lodging expenses.
  - 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 internally declared.
  - e. Upon receipt of the application, the AARC Executive Office will notify the member that their application has been received and encourage the member to reach out to their State Affiliate

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Leadership to discuss their application for funding from the Disaster Relief Fund.

- f. The AARC Executive Office will forward the application to the appropriate chartered affiliate president and affiliate delegates for review of accuracy and for approval. The affiliate presidents/delegates have 10 working days to notify the AARC Executive Office if a claim has been approved or denied. If the claim is denied, the State Affiliate will need to provide a reason to be conveyed to the claimant.
  - i. If verification from the State Affiliate is not received in the appropriate time frame the applicant will be notified that their requires has been denied.
- g. Once the affiliate president approval is received by the Executive Office a chick in the amount of \$1,000 will be distributed to the requestor member.
- h. Recipients will also receive an additional year of membership at no cost.