

BIRTHFUND

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FAQS FOR BIRTHFUND WILDFIRE RELIEF FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM FAMILIES

What is birthFUND?

birthFUND is a nonprofit fiscally sponsored by Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs with a mission to cover the cost of holistic perinatal care and midwifery birth support for families in need. birthFUND was born to rally community resources in response to America's maternal mortality crisis. Los Angeles is home to many of our team members, and the catastrophic impact of the recent fires have illuminated how natural disasters due to climate change compound this ongoing crisis in countless ways. So, we feel compelled to show up for our community of pregnant and postpartum families — who are among the most vulnerable victims of the fires — with tangible, real-time support.

Who is eligible to receive the \$1,500 in direct support?

birthFUND's fire relief program is created to provide direct cash support to pregnant and postpartum families impacted by the LA County wildfires. We are prioritizing families that are in their third trimester of pregnancy and the first 12 weeks after giving birth as these are especially vulnerable periods with unique risk factors for the whole family.

Can families outside of Los Angeles County qualify?

No, this fund is specifically for families in Los Angeles County who have been impacted by the fires according to these fire map zones.

Will all applicants receive the cash assistance?

No. Due to the expected high volume of applications, we cannot guarantee that all applicants will receive the funds. Assistance will be provided to those eligible, on a first come first served basis, and as funding allows.

Can I donate to support this effort?

Yes, we are accepting donations to meet the needs of families impacted by the wildfires. You can donate directly at <https://bit.ly/birthFUNDfirerelief> or contact admin@thebirthfund.com.

What is the timeline of receiving aid?

The application is due by February 5 at 5 pm. Our team will be reviewing applications as soon as possible and plan to begin distributing aid on a first-come, first-served basis to applicants who meet our eligibility criteria. In some instances, some applicants may be placed on a waitlist as we determine or intake additional funding. Our plan is to distribute all funds received to date by February 15.

What happens after I've filled out an application?

Applicants will receive a notification via email or text message to notify them that their application was received and under review. However, some applicants may receive direct phone calls with follow up questions to complete their application. Please note that if we

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have not received a response to any relevant questions within three business days, we will move on to the next family needing support.

How will payments be disbursed? What documentation do applicants need to provide to receive payment?

To get payment to recipients as quickly as possible, we will be utilizing pre-loaded cash cards. These cards will be distributed via email at the address provided within the application.

Do I need a bank account to receive the payment?

No. Payments will be distributed by cash card.

Can I receive cash?

No, we are unable to provide payment to an approved applicant in the form of direct cash. Accepted applicants must receive their payment via a preloaded card.

What can I use the funds for?

This is a direct cash transfer and there are no requirements for how the funds should be used. However, the intention is for these funds to be used for essential needs related to the family's health and wellness during fire recovery.

Can I apply for more than one person in my household?

Due to limited availability and the number of households affected by recent natural disasters, households will be limited to no more than one cash card.

Will my personal information be kept confidential?

Yes, we are committed to protecting your privacy. All documentation submitted with your application will be kept confidential and used solely for the purpose of processing your application for the e-gift card. No information will be shared with third parties or organizations outside of birthFUND, a project of Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs.

Can I apply regardless of my immigration status?

Yes, all pregnant and postpartum families impacted by the wildfires are eligible to apply for this program. You will not be asked about your immigration status.

How will I be notified if I was or was not accepted to receive the cash assistance?

Individuals who are awarded assistance through this program will receive an email by February 15. Applicants who are not selected for funding due to eligibility will receive an email notifying them. Some applicants may be added to a waiting list temporarily as final funding is determined.

Can I apply if I don't have an email address?

If you do not have an email address, you can use a family member or friend's email address for communication, but our team will still need to be able to confirm the identity of the intended recipient.

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Can I apply on behalf of someone else?

Yes, if you are assisting someone else in applying, you can fill out the online application on their behalf. However, the name on the application and their form of identification will have to match.

Can I re-apply if my application is denied?

If you are not selected for aid, unfortunately, you are not able to reapply at this time.

Will the application re-open?

The application may reopen based on availability of funds.