

## BURIAL

SER will provide funds toward a burial or cremation if the person's estate plus contributions are not sufficient.

A relative or a person with the legal right to arrange for burial must apply for burial assistance within 10 days of the burial or cremation. Inform the funeral director that public assistance may be needed, as SER limits the total cost of burial.

### REMEMBER:

- **You must apply for SER at the local DHS office before the service is provided.**
- **You may be asked to provide proof that you meet eligibility requirements.**
- **If you have questions or do not understand, ask for help at the DHS office.**

QUANTITY: 0 Electronic  
COST: 0  
AUTHORITY: DHS Director

Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sexual orientation, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

DHS Publication 563 (Rev. 11-07)  
Previous edition is obsolete.

# STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

The STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF program (SER) offers financial help if you are facing an emergency that threatens your health or safety.

Any low-income household may qualify for SER.

If you qualify, DHS will help to pay for the covered services listed in this pamphlet. You must show proof that financial help is needed.

To apply for SER, visit a local Department of Human Services (DHS) office. Every county has at least one DHS office listed in the telephone directory under MICHIGAN, STATE OF..... Department of Human Services.

More information is available on the DHS web site at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs) and [www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance](http://www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance).



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

# ELIGIBILITY FOR SER

## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

**INCOME:** All income of all household members expected to be received in the 30-day period following the application for SER is used to determine eligibility. DHS has set an income limit based on the number of people in the household. Any income above that amount must be used to help pay for the emergency need.

**ASSETS:** A household that has more than \$50 in cash assets must pay the amount over \$50 toward the emergency. (Cash assets include cash, checking or savings accounts, stocks, bonds, and similar resources that can easily be converted to cash.)

The value of non-cash assets (such as a boat or a second automobile) cannot exceed these limits: \$1,750 for a one-person household, \$3,000 for more than one person. Some SER groups may be eligible regardless of non-cash assets.

## CLIENT-CAUSED EMERGENCIES

If available money has not been used to pay for shelter or utilities, SER will not be issued unless the household had “good cause” for not making the payments. “Good cause” means household income was below a specified amount during the time shelter or utility costs were not paid.

SER will not be approved if the payment will not resolve the emergency, or if the emergency is expected to recur in the near future.

The following services can be covered by SER within certain limits. Some of these services have special eligibility requirements.

## RELOCATION (RENT) SERVICES

SER may be approved to:

- Prevent eviction.
- Set up residence for a homeless household.
- Establish a suitable home for children.
- Establish a suitable home for the group because of domestic violence or a natural disaster.

## HOUSE PAYMENTS

SER may be issued to prevent loss of a home due to foreclosure, a land contract forfeiture, or the loss of a mobile home.

## PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes may be paid to stop a tax sale when a foreclosure hearing has been scheduled.

## HOME REPAIRS

Home repairs may be provided to correct unsafe conditions or to restore essential services such as water, waste disposal, heat or electricity.

Several conditions must be met to qualify for home repairs including:

- A household member must be the owner or purchaser of the home, or hold a life estate or life lease.
- The home must be the household’s permanent, usual home.
- The home must not be for sale or in jeopardy of loss.

## NOTE: HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Before SER can be approved for relocation services, house payments, property taxes or home repairs, the shelter must be affordable. This means that the cost of housing must not exceed a certain percentage of income based on allowances set by DHS.

## HEATING FUEL AND UTILITIES

Assistance may be granted to prevent shut-off or restore heat, electric, or water service. There are annual payment limits.

## MIGRANT HOSPITALIZATION

Migrant families with children may have the cost of hospitalization covered, within certain limits, for up to 30 days in a one-year period.