

El Faro Relief Fund

The Seamen's Church Institute
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In response to the tragic loss of the *MV El Faro* with all hands in October 2015, the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) has established the El Faro Relief Fund (the Fund) to provide financial assistance to the surviving families and dependents of the *MV El Faro*'s lost seafarers.¹ The Fund may also be available to provide financial assistance to the surviving families and dependents of seafarers who may be lost at sea from U.S. flag merchant vessels in the future. Grants will be awarded to eligible family members and dependents for financial hardships caused by the seafarer's casualty. The Fund's selection committee² has sole discretion to approve grants based on objective determinations of applicants' needs or distress and resources available in the Fund. Applications for grants must be submitted to SCI to be considered for a grant from the Fund. Depending on individual need and Fund resources, additional future grants will be considered for the same applicant.

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

¹ Seafarer means any person who is employed or engaged or works in any capacity on board a merchant vessel.

² The Selection Committee is comprised of SCI's President & Executive Director; Director, Center for Seafarers' Rights; Director, Finance & Operations; and Director, Development.



➤ ELIGIBILITY

The Fund will consider financial support to immediate family members (spouse, children, parents), dependents, and domestic partners of seafarers from the *MV El Faro* who perished at sea in October 2015 and immediate family members, dependents and domestic partners of seafarers who may be lost at sea from U.S. flag merchant vessels in the future.

The deceased seafarers' employer will provide the selection committee with the names and addresses, if known, of the seafarers' next-of-kin and dependents. Applicants who are not identified as next-of-kin or dependents by the employer must provide credible evidence of their relationship with and financial dependence on the deceased seafarer.

➤ GRANT AMOUNT

The amount of financial assistance will depend upon the Fund's resources and the number of applications selected for assistance. The amount of assistance provided will be based on the applicant's objective financial and other objective needs that are not covered by insurance or other available resources. Except in circumstances where a grant reimburses an applicant for items already purchased for which receipts are provided, the Fund typically pays grants directly to the supplier of goods or services rather than to the applicant.

➤ AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

The Fund is intended to assist eligible survivors by paying for reasonable expenses they have incurred or anticipate to incur as a result of the seafarers' casualty. The Fund is not intended to be used for long-term maintenance or social security, for private business purposes, or to replace other sources of available assistance.

It is not possible to enumerate every circumstance where the Fund can provide emergency assistance, however the following is a non-inclusive list of some of the common needs that can be anticipated:

- **Basic Living Expenses** Short-term assistance with rent, utilities, food, mortgage payments, children's necessities, or car loans to prevent loss of a primary home or transportation that would cause additional trauma to families already suffering
- **Medical Expenses** Medical expenses that are not covered by insurance
- **Professional Counseling** The Fund may be used for professional grief, psychological, and other appropriate counseling to help eligible recipients respond to their loss
- **Funeral Expenses** The cost of a modest, dignified funeral or memorial service for the seafarer
- **Travel Expenses** The Fund may be used for eligible recipients to attend funerals and to provide comfort to survivors
- **Education Expenses** Short-term, immediate assistance with elementary and secondary school tuition and higher education costs
- **Child/Elder Care** Temporary child or elder care, including assistance to allow a surviving spouse with young children to remain at home with the children to maintain the psychological well-being of the family

➤ SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The selection committee has sole authority to approve grants in extraordinary circumstances that fall outside of the Guidelines.



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GRANT APPLICATION

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DATE OF APPLICATION

➤ ABOUT YOU

YOUR NAME

DECEASED SEAFARER'S NAME

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO SEAFARER

If you are not the next-of-kin or a lawful dependent, please provide evidence that establishes your financial dependence on the deceased seafarer:

➤ YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

STREET ADDRESS

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

ALTERNATE TELEPHONE

➤ GRANT REQUEST

AMOUNT REQUESTED

PURPOSE/USE OF FUNDS



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Funds will normally be paid directly to the provider of goods and services. Please attach bills, invoices or other documentation showing the amount to be paid and to whom payment should be made. If you are requesting reimbursement for money already spent, please attach receipts or paid invoices for these amounts.

➤ CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROVIDER OF GOODS & SERVICES

NAME

ACCOUNT NUMBER

STREET ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

HAVE YOU INCLUDED ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (E.G., RECEIPTS, INVOICES, ETC.) WITH THIS APPLICATION?

YES NO

IF YES, HOW MANY ITEMS OF ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION?



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➤ OTHER INFORMATION

HAVE YOU REQUESTED OR RECEIVED FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE FROM ANOTHER SOURCE? IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

USE THIS SPACE TO TELL US ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK WE MIGHT NEED TO KNOW.

➤ SIGNATURE/DATE

I certify that the information I have provided is correct and true and that I have not received funds from any other source for this request. I understand that the approval of this grant is at the sole discretion of the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI).

Send completed applications by email to elfarofund@seamenschurch.org; by mail to El Faro Relief Fund, The Seamen's Church Institute, 118 Export St, Port Newark, NJ 07114; or by fax to +1 973-817-8565.

