

# Work Stoppage 2023 - FAQ

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## Who is striking?

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The Board of Directors of the Writers Guild of America, which represents approximately 11,500 writers on the West and East coasts, voted unanimously to call a strike effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 2nd. The Writers' Guild of Great Britain also instructed U.K. members to stop work on projects within WGA jurisdiction. On July 13, 2023, SAG-AFTRA's National Board officially voted to strike on TV, theatrical and streaming work covered by the TV/Theatrical Agreements. SAG-AFTRA, represents approximately 160,000-members who began striking on July 14, 2023.

## Who is MPTF?

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Established in 1921, MPTF has provided a critical safety net to the entertainment community for over 100 years. MPTF offers a variety of services that can provide emotional and financial relief to industry members and their families during times of need and especially during an industry-wide event. MPTF's 100-year history as a charitable organization combined with the expertise of its social services team makes us keenly prepared to understand the unique needs of entertainment industry members. Simply said, MPTF is here when you need us the most.

## Will MPTF administer a specific strike fund?

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MPTF administers several emergency relief funds that provide financial assistance to eligible industry members who have been impacted by the work stoppages. Through its existing programming and services, MPTF has its own charitable financial assistance program for industry members not eligible for these other emergency relief funds, and additionally provides other services and programs to all eligible industry members. Learn more at [mptf.com/services](https://mptf.com/services)

## Who is eligible to apply for charitable assistance at MPTF?

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Charitable assistance from MPTF and the other emergency relief funds it is administering will be available to those who have worked consistently in the motion picture and television industry and can demonstrate a financial need. Assistance is available to those who have modest or unavailable resources and is given in the form of payment towards basic living expenses such as food or housing expenses. Given that the aim of the emergency relief fund programs is to help those with the greatest need, once eligibility is established a social worker will work with members to demonstrate their need for financial assistance. For many of the emergency

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relief funds administered by MPTF, members will be expected to have less than \$10,000 in liquid assets at the time of applying for assistance.

There are several pieces in determining eligibility. It is best to reach out to us so we can screen for your eligibility.

## What does the application process involve?

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The process begins with a call to the MPTF hotline (323) 634-3888. Members will speak to an MPTF social worker who will assess their eligibility and specific circumstances/needs. Members will be asked to complete a release form or to gather documentation that substantiates their work in the film and television industry. If a member meets MPTF's eligibility guidelines, they will be notified as such by their assigned social worker, who will then walk the member through the process of applying for financial assistance, including completion of a financial assistance application and procurement of the following: last paystub, current bank statements, copies of the bills that the member wants covered, and a copy of their most recent income tax returns. Members will be notified by their assigned social worker of the determination.

## How long will it take to receive assistance after I apply and have had my eligibility confirmed?

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This depends on the volume of calls MPTF is experiencing. It is best to move quickly and to provide all documents in a timely manner. MPTF staff will be very focused on this matter.

## What amount of financial assistance might I receive?

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The grants from most of the emergency relief funds are typically up to \$1,500. The grants do not go directly to you but rather to those designated vendors (banks for mortgages or car payments, utility company, landlord, healthcare providers or insurers) you provide MPTF. MPTF grants can range from a few hundred dollars to, again, up to \$1,500.

## Is this financial assistance a one-time relief or may I apply again in the future?

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We cannot answer that definitively right now. Given the uncertainties around the duration of this work stoppage, our advice today would be to assume that it is one-time during this strike but to check back with us if the strike is prolonged.