

# TRI-COUNTY HEALTH NETWORK



## Ouray County Fund Grant Qualification Criteria

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The Good Neighbor Fund was created by the Telluride Foundation, which has been operating it for 15 years. The Ouray County Response Fund was created in 2020 by several Ouray County donors as a separate fund within the Good Neighbor Fund Program to address the needs of Ouray County residents specifically. Telluride Foundation's supporting organization, Tri-County Health Network, manages distributions from both the Good Neighbor Fund and the Ouray County Response Fund.

In 2024, The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners (County) allocated a contribution from the Ouray County General Fund to the Ouray County Response Fund, specifically to assist Ouray County residents experiencing hardships to remain in their homes and maintain their employment (if employed). The OCRF now allows emergency financial assistance to be used not just for emergency expenses for qualified applicants for daily needs such as rent, mortgage payment, medical bills, car repair, food assistance, utility assistance, and more as determined necessary to remain living and working in Ouray County (if employed) but also for payment of a property tax bill for a qualified resident's primary residence.

In order to be eligible for consideration, applicants must have currently lived in the county for 1 year, demonstrate that they have exhausted all other resources, and show that they can maintain financial stability outside this non-recurring and unexpected crisis to remain living and working (if employed) in Ouray County. The maximum Ouray County Response Fund grant award is \$2,000 per year for property tax purposes. Applicants who receive an OCRF grant for property tax relief may re-apply for additional funding through the OCRF again for other allowed purposes after three months. If the Ouray County Response Fund is not fully depleted, applicants may reapply for property tax relief the following year.

It is important to review the following criteria before completing an application.

Applicants must be able to **provide proof** of the following:

- 1) \*Residency (e.g., copy of lease agreement; mortgage statement; property tax bill)
- 2) \*Employment (current or former) (e.g., copy of pay stub)
- 3) Statements demonstrating current financial need (e.g., copies of bills, balances forwarded)
- 4) All regular monthly financial commitments (e.g., electric bill, mortgage/rent due, car insurance, medical bill, phone, health insurance)
- 5) \*Applicants to the OCRF intending to use funds for property tax must provide a copy of their Ouray County property tax notice along with the application. Applicants and the Ouray County Assessor must verify that they have been an Ouray County resident for at least one year and that the property tax will be used

solely for paying property tax at the owner's primary residence in Ouray County where they have resided for at least one year.

*\* In order to be eligible for consideration, applicants must proof of residency showing they have lived in Ouray County for at least one year; demonstrate that they have exhausted all other resources, and show that they can maintain financial stability outside this non-recurring and unexpected crisis to remain living and working, if employed, in Ouray County, and have not received a OCRF grant within the past 90 (ninety) days. Once a complete application is received, the applicant may be contacted for an in-person or phone meeting. All completed applications will be reviewed in complete confidence in order to make a grant allocation decision. Monies awarded will be in the form of a grant paid directly to the provider of service by the Telluride Foundation.*

*Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$2,000 for property tax assistance once every twelve months. The maximum grant allotment per application for non-property tax emergency assistance is \$2,000. Ouray County Response Fund applicants are eligible to re-apply for up to \$2,000 for emergency assistance after three months of receiving an Ouray County Response Fund grant award.*

Thank you for inquiring about the Ouray County Response Fund. For questions, please contact TCHNetwork at 970.708.7967 or [GNF@tchnetwork.org](mailto:GNF@tchnetwork.org).