

Moving Expenses

Can the Erie County Department of Social Services (ECDSS) help me with moving expenses?

Yes, if you meet certain guidelines. If you are single, have no children in your household or part of a childless household, your income must be at or below 125% of the current Federal Poverty Level. If you have at least one child in your household, your income must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. If you need help because of a fire, flood, or other catastrophe, the 125% limitation does not apply. To get your moving expenses paid, you must also meet one of the following conditions:

1. You are moving to a less expensive apartment;
2. You have to move because of a disaster, like a fire or flood, or a Health Department or code enforcement violation;
3. You must move because someone in your household has a serious medical or physically handicapping condition (for example, your apartment has stairs and your doctor says you cannot climb stairs);
4. Someone you and your family lived with has put you out, and you and your family are experiencing homelessness;
5. The move is from temporary to permanent housing, including moving from a shelter to your own apartment;
6. Your living situation is dangerous (for example, family violence).

Do I have to be on Public Assistance to get help with moving?

No. You do not have to be a Public Assistance recipient to get this help.

What if I have to move because I did not pay my rent?

You can still receive help from ECDSS, but ECDSS can make you pay them back if you are moving because you were evicted for failing to pay rent. If you are not sure whether you will have to pay them back, you can call our office for help.

What do I have to do to get help with moving expenses?

In Erie County you should go to the Emergency Services office located on the 2nd floor at 460 Main Street, Buffalo, New York to get the application packet. You will need to make sure you get two (2) estimates from the current list of movers.

What will I have to show to get the Erie County Department of Social Services to pay for my moving expenses?

The Erie County Department of Social Services will need:

1. Identification;
2. A Completed Landlord Form or a statement if you will be staying with someone else;

3. Written verification of the reason for moving
4. Proof of income if you do not get Temporary (cash) Assistance or SSI; and
5. Two (2) sealed estimates from the list of ECDSS approved moving companies.

What if I cannot get all the documents that DSS is asking for?

If you cannot get the documents, but have tried your best to get them, tell your worker. DSS has a duty to assist you in getting all the required documentation.

What if Erie County Department of Social Services refuses to pay for my moving expenses?

If your application is denied you should get a written notice. You can call our office and we can review the notice with you. We may agree to take your case. You can call us at (716) 847-0650 and ask for the Health and Economic Security Unit. You also have the right to request a fair hearing if you disagree with the denial.

How do I request a Fair Hearing?

You can request a Fair Hearing:

By Phone:

Statewide Toll-free 1-800-342-3334: Fair Hearing Requests & Inquiries

By Mail:

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 1930 Albany, New York 12201-1930

By Fax

Fax No. (518) 473-6735

Online:

Forms: <http://www.otda.state.nyus/oah.forms.asp>