

## **Regional Hardship Fund Guidelines**

1. A committee of at least three (3) persons must be established to review requests and make recommendations to the applicable AEC Officer.
2. The AEC Officer is responsible for and must authorize any payments from the respective National/Regional Hardship Fund.
3. Access to the National/Regional Hardship Fund will not be available to members who are on paid leave or leave of absence during the strike/lock out members designated for essential services or who otherwise crossed the picket line without the expressed authorization of the Strike Coordinator.
4. A member must comply with the provisions of PSAC Regulation 6.
5. A member must have received strike pay for at least three days to be eligible for payment from the National/Regional Hardship Fund.
6. Financial assistance will be paid only in cases of undue hardship.
7. Coverage for rent or mortgage payments will only be considered if efforts to defer these are not successful.
8. Only in exceptional circumstances will payment be considered for a member prior to the member not receiving pay for more than one pay period (normally at least three weeks).
9. An applicant must provide the committee with a declaration of all income earned by their household for the period of the strike.
10. All requests for assistance should be channelled through the appropriate Local Hardship Committee, if applicable, and will be handled with the greatest regard for confidentiality by the Regional Hardship Committee.
11. Payments from the National/Regional Hardship Fund will be considered either a grant or an interest-free loan.

***As approved at the June 2003 AEC Meeting***