

SHIELDS FUND

An Outreach Ministry of the First Congregational Church of Camden

55 Elm Street, Camden, ME 04843 – cell 207-466-5374

Please retain this page for your records and eligibility criteria.

The Shields Fund is a dedicated fund to benefit residents of Knox County, and Lincolnville, who face financial challenges not covered by other social services and governmental funding. Shields funds are intended to provide direct aid to individuals and families in crisis with payments made to the service provider rather than the individual/family in need.

Examples of covered requests include:

- Utilities: fuel, electricity, gas, water and sewer.
- Shelter: rent, security deposit, mortgage payment, and emergency shelter.
- Home maintenance: to insure safety and/or address health issues
- Health care: medical, dental, vision and mental health, gym membership when physician ordered or therapeutic camp when ordered by a therapist.
- Transportation needs: car registration, repairs, insurance, taxi fees, bus tickets, etc.
- Education: registration fees, purchase of computer technology, internet cost for ed. etc.
- Special clothing required for medical conditions, work garments, etc.

Non-covered services include:

- Self-referrals, Direct payments or loans to individuals and families
- Services provided by family members
- Legal services; fines or taxes
- Non-prescriptive medications
- Services that should be funded through alternative resources, i.e., insurance, workmen's compensation, Medicare, MaineCare, Town General Assistance, Federal fuel assistance
- Recreational activities

The Shields Fund requires a referral from a viable social worker/case manager/therapist or clergy who is advocating for individuals or families in need of financial assistance. Referrals must meet the following criteria:

- The individual/family **resides in Knox County or Lincolnville.**
- A **Shields Fund application** is completed by appropriate staff.
- A **specific need** has been identified that the individual/family cannot meet, with documentation of need (estimate or invoices), etc.
- The **request is clearly stated** and concise with a **specific dollar amount** established.
- Referring worker provides evidence that **other appropriate resources have been explored.**
- Approved gifts from Shields will be **paid directly to service provider.**

If questions, call **church office at 207-236-4821 or Shields Cell at 207-466-5374; fax or email jeanne@camdenucc.org** with application at 236-4822 or US mail at 55 Elm St., Camden, ME 04843.