

## **The Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund**

CSEA takes care of its members on the job, but it also lends a helping hand in times of crisis. The Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund provides financial relief to members in need. The Assistance Fund, which subsists solely on the generous donations of CSEA members, is disbursed through three different programs:

Disaster Assistance Program  
Emergency Assistance Program  
Humanitarian Assistance Program.

### **Disaster Assistance Program**

In the event of a disaster (such as an earthquake, fire or flood), CSEA members can apply for disaster assistance to help cover uninsured losses exceeding \$2,500. Applications for disaster assistance will be made available as soon as the Association President or designee officially declares the catastrophic event eligible for disaster assistance. All applications will undergo a screening and review process.

### **Emergency Assistance Program**

If a member's primary residence is deemed uninhabitable as the result of a catastrophic event, such as an earthquake, fire or flood, that member can apply for up to \$1,000 in immediate emergency assistance. Unlike the Disaster Assistance Program which targets large-scale disaster areas, Emergency Relief is also available for localized catastrophes such as house fires and small floods.

### **Humanitarian Assistance Program**

When a member incurs significant financial hardship due to circumstances beyond their control, that member can apply for up to \$750 of financial relief through the Humanitarian Assistance Program. Applications and corroborating documentation must be submitted to CSEA Member Benefits within 30 days of the financial emergency. If approved, payments will be made directly to appropriate vendors (utility company, landlord, mortgage lender, etc.).

To be eligible for any of the programs in the Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund, you must be a CSEA member in good standing or a CSEA staff employee in paid status. Full details and eligibility requirements are detailed in CSEA Policy 1010.