

# WGA Strike 2023 - FAQ

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## Who is striking?

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The Board of Directors of the Writers Guild of America, which represents approximately 11,500 writers on the West and East coasts, voted unanimously to call a strike effective 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 2nd. The Writers' Guild of Great Britain also instructed U.K. members to stop work on projects within WGA jurisdiction.

## Who is MPTF?

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Established in 1921, MPTF has provided a critical safety net to the Southern California entertainment community for over 100 years. MPTF offers a variety of services that can provide emotional and financial relief to industry members and their families during times of need and during an industry wide event. During the last WGA strike in 2007-2008, MPTF supported the workforce across the industry with charitable financial assistance and other services. MPTF's 100-year history as a charitable organization coupled with the expertise of the social services team makes us keenly prepared to understand the unique needs of entertainment industry members. Simply, MPTF is here when you need us the most.

## Will MPTF administer a specific strike fund?

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The WGA will administer a strike fund for its members. Along with other organizations, MPTF will continue to provide charitable financial assistance, along with other services and programs, to all eligible industry members through its existing charitable programming and services. Learn more at [mptf.com/services](https://mptf.com/services)

## Who is eligible to apply for charitable assistance at MPTF?

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There are several pieces to determine eligibility, It is best to reach out to us so we can screen for your eligibility.

Charitable assistance will be available to those who have worked consistently in the motion picture and television industry and can demonstrate a financial need. Assistance is available to those who have modest or unavailable resources and is given in the form of payment towards basic living expenses such as food or housing expenses. Given that the aim of MPTF's assistance is to help those with the greatest need, once eligibility is established a social worker will work with members to demonstrate their need for financial assistance. Members will be expected to have less than \$10,000 in liquid assets at the time of applying to be eligible for assistance.

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## What does the application process involve?

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The process begins with a call to the MPTF hotline (323) 634-3888. Members will speak to an MPTF social worker who will assess their eligibility and specific circumstances/needs. Members will be asked to complete a release form or to gather documentation that substantiates their work in the film and television industry. If a member meets MPTF's eligibility guidelines, they will be notified as such by their assigned social worker, who will then walk the member through the process of applying for financial assistance, including completion of a financial assistance application and procurement of the following: last paystub, current bank statements, copies of the bills that the member wants covered, and a copy of their most recent income tax returns. Members will be notified by their assigned social worker of the determination.

## How long will it take to receive assistance after I apply and have had my eligibility confirmed?

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This depends on the volume of calls MPTF is experiencing. It is best to move quickly and to provide all documents in a timely manner. MPTF staff will be very focused on this matter.

## What amount of financial assistance might I receive?

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MPTF grants are typically in the hundreds of dollars. The grants do not go directly to you but rather to those designated vendors (banks for mortgages or car payments, utility company, landlord, healthcare providers or insurers) you provide MPTF.

## Is this financial assistance a one-time relief or may I apply again in the future?

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We cannot answer that definitively right now. MPTF assistance is typically provided on a one-time basis for able-bodied individuals. Given the uncertainties around the duration of this strike, our advice today would be to assume that it is one-time during this strike period but to check back with us if the strike is prolonged.