



# WOMEN OF FISHING FAMILIES

## FISHING COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

### -APPLICATION-

If you or a family member has had a medical emergency, is unable to work, or experiencing difficulty through transition, we may be able to find the help you need. The Women of Fishing Families offer confidential financial assistance and community resources for fishermen, their families, and industry workers in need of support.

If you are in need of emergency financial assistance, you may be eligible for help through our Fishing Community Fund. In order for us to help you, we need to learn more about your circumstances. All information that we collect is confidential, and will not be shared with any other persons or organizations.

Follow the steps below:

1. **Please contact WOFF** directly OR through a family member or authorized representative by one of the following methods:
  - Phone: 508-274-2092
  - Email: [karen@womenoffishingfamilies.org](mailto:karen@womenoffishingfamilies.org)
  - Mailed note with an explanation of circumstances: PO Box 134 Chatham, MA 02633
2. After we've had a conversation with you to learn more about your circumstances, **the following information may be required** in order to help us better understand your financial need:
  - Proof of Income & Expenses
    - At least 61% of income must be generated from commercial fishing, shellfishing, or direct shore-side supporting industries.
    - Proof of fishing industry income can be provided by any of the following ways:
      - Recent tax filings (W-2, 1099, quarterly or 1040 filings)
      - Affidavit from employer or captain
      - Catch reports
      - Self-employed profit/loss ledger (can be hand-written)
    - Expenses:
      - Medical bills
      - Utilities
      - Rent or Mortgage payments
3. **Fill out the "Applicant Information"** section on page 2. Mail to: WOFF PO Box 134 Chatham, MA 02633
4. Once we receive your application, we will contact you or your family representative with the next steps. Please allow at least **2 business days**.
5. Read through the "Questions to Consider" section, and refer to the "Resource" sheet for more sources of community support. Visit [womenoffishingfamilies.org](http://womenoffishingfamilies.org) for web-links to all resources listed.

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>NAME:</b>  |                          |
| <b>ADDRESS:</b>   | <b>TOWN, STATE, ZIP:</b> |
| <b>PHONE:</b>   | <b>EMAIL:</b>            |
| <b>HOW ARE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY INVOLVED IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY?:</b> (circle all that apply)  |                          |
| F/V CAPTAIN   | F/V CREW                 |
| CLAMMER/DIGGER  | AQUACULTURE              |
| FISH PACKER/LUMPER  | OTHER SHORE-SIDE SUPPORT |
| <b>FISHING PORT(s):</b>   |                          |
| <b>Does a majority of your income come from fishing industry-related work?</b> <b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>   |                          |
| <b>Which of the following reasons, generally, are you applying for assistance?</b> (circle all that apply)  |                          |
| SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF INCOME  | MEDICAL EMERGENCY        |
| ILLNESS OR DEATH IN THE FAMILY  | UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCE  |
| OTHER   | TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT     |
| <b>AUTHORIZED FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE:</b><br>If you authorize someone other than yourself to communicate details about your financial need for the purpose of this application, please list said representative below. Both parties are required to sign and date. |                          |
| <b>AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE:</b>   | <b>DATE:</b>             |
| <b>APPLICANT SIGNATURE:</b>   | <b>DATE:</b>             |

**Questions to Consider:**

- Do you have health insurance?
- Have you applied for services offered through the MA Dept. of Transition (SNAP benefits, disability, unemployment assistance, utility or housing assistance)?
- Do you currently have an income? Do you have expected income? What is the total household income?
- What are the monthly household expenses?
- Have you used any other local agencies for financial assistance or other support? Food pantry, ecumenical council, Shaw Fund for Mariners' Children, Lower Cape Outreach Council, etc.?

**SEE THE BOOT. KNOW THE CAUSE.**

**RESOURCE SHEET**

**Fishing Partnership Support Services – Cape & Islands Office**  
3 Champlain Rd. Chatham, MA 02633  
508-237-9402

[mparker@fishingpartnership.org](mailto:mparker@fishingpartnership.org)

Human resource services for fishing families  
(health insurance, financial services, legal advice,  
access to care, safety trainings)

**Shaw Fund for Mariner’s Children – Cape & Islands Office**  
PO Box 20 Mashpee, MA 02649-0020  
508-477-6708

Financial assistance to incapacitated fishermen and  
fishing family children or widows

**Cape Cod Healthcare – Office of Community Benefits**  
508-862-7896

[communitybenefits@capecodhealth.org](mailto:communitybenefits@capecodhealth.org)

Helping underserved populations with health  
care resources; paying medical bills

**Hands of Hope**  
49 Rt. 28 PO Box 387 West Harwich, MA 02671

508-432-1312

[churcheshoh@comcast.net](mailto:churcheshoh@comcast.net)

Emergency assistance to low income families in need

**Lower Cape Outreach Council**  
19 Brewster Cross Rd. PO Box 665 Orleans, MA 02653

508-240-1490

[genniem@lcoutreach.org](mailto:genniem@lcoutreach.org)

Provide emergency assistance

**Community Action Committee of Cape Cod**  
372 North St. Hyannis, MA 02601  
508-771-1727

Provides services to low income families to achieve self-sufficiency  
(Also office of Career Opportunities,  
helping place unemployed individuals in new job opportunities)

**MA Department of Transitional Assistance**  
181 North St. Hyannis, MA 02601  
508-862-6600

Provides heating, utilities, rental/mortgage, and food  
stamp benefits based on eligibility

**St. Vincent DePaul Society**  
Orleans, MA  
508-255-8080

Housing and emergency financial assistance

**The Family Pantry of Cape Cod**  
133 Queen Anne Rd. Harwich, MA 02645  
508-432-6519

Provide food and clothing to those in need

**Monomoy Community Services**  
166 Depot Rd. Chatham, MA 02633  
508-945-1501

[info@monomoy.org](mailto:info@monomoy.org)

Social service, childcare, and family resources  
for Chatham residents

Thank you to the generosity of the  
**Chatham Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation**  
for helping make this application available to  
local fishing families.

**SEE THE BOOT. KNOW THE CAUSE.**

PO Box 134 Chatham, MA 02633 508-274-2092 [womenoffishingfamilies.org](http://womenoffishingfamilies.org)