



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND FACTS ABOUT BURIAL ASSISTANCE

## WHAT IS BURIAL ASSISTANCE?

The Burial Assistance Program offers assistance to low-income Washington, DC residents only who need help with funeral costs. The cost for a funeral service for those considered to be oversized by the funeral home can be as high as \$3,000.00. DHS' Economic Security Administration (**ESA**) provides up to \$800 towards funeral services or \$450 towards the cost of cremation. Families receiving this assistance must use an **ESA** identified undertaker. The total cost of the funeral must not be greater than \$2,000.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A family may be eligible if the money available to the deceased on the date of death does not exceed \$800. This amount includes any remaining money from washing banking and checking accounts, final Social Security checks, life insurance payouts, final paychecks, etc. Special rules may apply to spouses and to children under age 18.

## DOES IT PAY FOR EVERYTHING?

The benefit is limited to \$800 towards funeral services or \$450 towards the cost of cremation. **ESA** makes all payments directly to the funeral home. Families are not reimbursed for funeral expenses that they pay out-of-pocket or if they use a different funeral home.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

A family member or individual assisting with funeral services should apply for the deceased. They should apply at the 645 H Street Service Center to complete and sign a short application. You must use a Funeral Home that is currently under contract with the District of Columbia. Additionally, the following must be provided:

- **Proof of District residency (unless the deceased was homeless);**
- **Proof of income;**
- **Proof of resources; and**
- **Proof of relationship**

**ESA** will make an eligibility determination as quickly as possible.

## WHERE DO I APPLY?

Applications are available at the following address:  
Office of Specialized Services  
Burial Assistance Program  
645 H Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR