



Government of the District of Columbia  
Department of Human Services  
Economic Security Administration

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BURIAL ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET**

### ***What does the Burial Assistance Program provide?***

The Burial Assistance Program provides a maximum of \$1000.00 towards the cost of a burial or \$650.00 towards the cost of a cremation. Assistance is provided if the deceased is determined eligible and the total cost of the burial or cremation is no more than \$2000.00. The total cost of a burial for a deceased person requiring an oversized casket cannot exceed \$3000.00. Burial Assistance payments are made directly to the contract funeral home selected by the decedent's next of kin.

### ***Who is eligible?***

An individual may be eligible if the money available to the deceased on the date of the death does not exceed \$800.00. This amount includes any remaining money from banking and checking accounts, Social Security checks, final pay check, etc. When determining eligibility, the income and assets of his/her spouse (if married) or parents (if a minor child) will be considered. To be eligible, the deceased must be a resident of the District of Columbia, even if death occurs outside of the District of Columbia. Also, burial or cremation services must be arranged through a funeral home under contract with the District and the deceased's body must not have been released to a non-contract funeral home at the time of application.

### ***What funeral homes are under contract to the District for this program?***

(List of Contracted Funeral Homes will be provided at time of application due to frequent changes during the year.)

### ***Where do I apply for assistance?***

Come to the Economic Security Administration (ESA) Service Center at 645 H Street NE, between 8:15am and 4:45pm, Monday through Friday. You will be asked to complete an application and provide information to determine if the deceased is eligible.

What should I bring when I apply?

Please bring documents that

- Verify income and assets, such as pay stubs and bank account statements for the deceased and his/her spouse if married (or parents, if a minor child);
- Verify that the deceased is a District resident (e.g. lease, utility bill), and
- Establish your relationship to the deceased (e.g. birth certificate, marriage certificate.)
- SSN of the deceased

### ***Where can I get more information?***

Call ESA Burial Assistance Unit on **(202) 698-4112** or **(202) 698-6662**