

## Free Resources & Assistance for Entertainment Industry Professionals in the U.S.

Whether you have been impacted by the 2023 WGA strike or are simply in need of help, do not hesitate to explore the many resources available to you. Some are listed here.



### WGA MEMBERS

The WGA Guilds have Strike Funds and can provide no-interest or low-interest loans to members who need financial assistance.

[WGAE Strike Fund](#) (requires login)

[WGAW Strike Fund](#) (requires login)

[WGAW Good and Welfare Emergency Assistance Loans](#)

Source: [www.wgacontract2023.org/strike-hub](http://www.wgacontract2023.org/strike-hub)

### SAG-AFTRA MEMBERS

The SAG-AFTRA Foundation offers several [Emergency Financial Assistance Programs](#) to eligible, dues-paying SAG-AFTRA members who are in urgent financial need due to an unexpected life crisis, such as a natural disaster, accident, health crisis creating a financial burden, loss of work due to an illness, loss of housing due to an eviction, death in the family, or other emergency crisis situations covered under IRS guidelines which pertain to granting tax-free monies to individuals.

SAG-AFTRA  
FOUNDATION

If you are in a position to donate to support the SAG-AFTRA Foundation, [please do so here](#).



Casting Society Cares

### CASTING SOCIETY MEMBERS

The [Casting Society Emergency Assistance Fund](#) provides confidential and immediate short-term financial assistance for Casting Society members who need urgent help and cannot pay basic living expenses (i.e. food, housing, utilities, health care, transportation).

For eligibility information and to apply for assistance, go to the [Entertainment Community Fund](#), which administers the program for Casting Society members. International members can apply by emailing [Eastern@entertainmentcommunity.org](mailto:Eastern@entertainmentcommunity.org).

If you are in a position to donate to support the Casting Society Cares, [please do so here](#).

### TV & FILM TEAMSTERS MEMBERS

The recently launched [Teamsters Motion Picture Division Financial Support Fund](#) aims to support Motion Picture Teamsters in need due to the Industry slowdown at the onset of early 2023 and the WGA strike. Administering the fund is The Motion Picture Television Fund, whose process is thorough and focuses not just on issuing grants, but also sharing any and all resources available to industry workers. [Click here for a full list of FAQs, requirements, and fund details](#).

To apply, call the MPTF Hotline at (323) 634-3888.





### ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY FUND

The [Entertainment Community Fund](#) is a national human services organization here to meet the needs of our entertainment community with a unique understanding of the challenges involved in a life in the arts. Services include emergency financial assistance, affordable housing, healthcare and health insurance counseling, senior care, secondary career development, and more. **Many services are available to all who work in the entertainment industry.**

If you are in a position to donate to support the Entertainment Community Fund, [please do so here](#).

---

### MOTION PICTURE TELEVISION FUND

The [Motion Picture Television Fund](#) (MPTF) offers a variety of services that can provide emotional and financial relief to people and their families during hardship. Whether the hardship is personal or the result of an entertainment industry-wide event, MPTF is here when you need us most. **Many services are available to all who work in the entertainment industry.**



If you are in a position to donate to support the MPTF, [please do so here](#).

---

Entertainment Health Insurance Solutions



### ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

[Entertainment Health Insurance Solutions](#) (EHIS) is a joint program of the Entertainment Community Fund and MPTF that offers California residents in the entertainment community personalized counseling and enrollment support. They also offer free educational workshops.

### BEHIND THE SCENES FOUNDATION

The [Behind the Scenes Foundation](#) (BTS) is a non-profit that issues grants to [Entertainment Technology Professionals](#), or their immediate dependent family, in need due to serious illness or injury that may be used for basic living, medical or funeral expenses. They also issue counseling grants to assist with the costs of seeing a therapist or in-patient or out-patient rehabilitation. Assistance is only in cases of serious illness or injury. BTS is unable to assist those out of work due to a strike unless applicants are ill or injured. Entertainment Technology Professionals include jobs such as camera operators, grips, gaffers, riggers, special effects, set decorators, costumers, and hair & makeup artists. Individuals who are dealing with illness or injury whose jobs are not listed above should contact BTS to see whether they are eligible before completing an application. [Click here for Medication Assistance Programs](#) curated by BTS.



If you are in a position to donate to support BTS, [please do so here](#).

---



### HOLLYWOOD SUPPORT STAFF RELIEF FUND (HSSRF)

[HSSRF](#) offers a one-time emergency financial assistance grant for film and television assistants or support staff who are currently unemployed or on hiatus due to work stoppage and have under three years of paid work experience in the entertainment industry. To apply for a grant, click [HERE](#).



If you are in a position to donate to support HSSRF, [please do so here](#).

---

**COVERED CALIFORNIA** (health insurance marketplace)

[Covered California](#) is a free service that connects Californians with brand-name health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It's the only place where you can get financial help when you buy health insurance from well-known companies. That means when you apply, you may qualify for a discount on a health plan through Covered California, or get health insurance through the state's Medi-Cal program. Either way, you'll have great health coverage.

**NEW YORK STATE OF HEALTH** (health insurance marketplace)

You and your family have many low-cost, quality health insurance options available through the Individual Marketplace via the [New York State of Health website](#). You can quickly compare health plan options and apply for assistance that could lower the cost of your health coverage. You may also qualify for health care coverage from Medicaid or Child Health Plus through the Marketplace.

**COBRA COVERAGE** (health insurance continuation coverage)

When you lose job-based health insurance, you may be offered Federal and/or State [COBRA continuation coverage](#). Premiums are generally 102% of your total premium that was paid by you and your employer or union. COBRA is intended to be a temporary way to continue coverage while you find a new job or other health insurance options. I recommend contacting your health insurance provider long before your coverage ends to inquire about your particular situation.

**UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS & STATE RESOURCES**

Depending on your situation, you may be eligible for Unemployment Compensation Benefits while you are unemployed and/or looking for work. Check with your state's unemployment benefits website for more information. If eligible, unemployment benefits are generally effective when you apply for them (after a 7-day waiting period), so do not wait.

*"In most states, including California, employees on strike are not entitled to unemployment insurance benefits because they are still considered employed. One exception is that employees in New York can file for unemployment after a two-week waiting period." - [LA Times](#)*



CALIFORNIA (up to \$450/week): [File a Claim: Entertainment Industry](#)  
Strike-related information: [Trade Dispute - Table of Contents](#)  
See also: [Additional California Resources](#)



NEW YORK (up to \$500/week): [Get Unemployment Assistance](#)  
Strike-related information: [New York Unemployment Insurance & Strikes](#)  
See also: [Additional New York Resources](#)

Other states & info: [How Do I File for Unemployment Insurance? | U.S. Department of Labor](#)