

Better Together Fund Application

The Better Together Fund was established in 2016. It provides emergency financial hardship relief to the employees (“Associates”) of entities operating as Banfield Pet Hospital®, BluePearl™, VCA and VCA Canada in the event of natural or manmade disasters or domestic violence.

The Better Together Fund does not provide assistance for non-emergency situations or as a result of general financial hardship. It is not intended as a substitute for personal insurance coverage, and therefore, grants will not be made for damage to, or loss of, personal property resulting from burglary or theft, or for losses that would have been prevented through normal repairs or maintenance.

QUALIFYING / NON-QUALIFYING EVENTS.

Please review the Better Together Fund guidelines before starting the application process. As a reminder, the fund assists Associates experiencing financial hardship as a result of a natural or man-made disaster or domestic violence, including but not limited to:

Examples of Qualifying Events:

- Fire
- Flood
- Tornado
- Hurricane
- Earthquake
- Terrorism
- Domestic Violence

Non-Qualifying Events:

- General hardships not created by a disaster
- Failure to conduct routine maintenance (car repairs, home maintenance)
- Burglary or theft

The fund is not meant to serve as an insurance policy, nor is it intended to replace the need for fire, flood, earthquake or home insurance.

Grants range between \$500 - \$3,000 depending on the situation as well as the financial qualification of each applicant. Support is only possible because of the generous donations of fellow Associates—the Better Together Fund Board of Directors and Grant Selection Committee serve as stewards for these funds to ensure the grants awarded meet the criteria and guidelines of the Better Together Fund. Assistance is considered on a case-by-case basis, and requested funding is not guaranteed.

OTHER ASSISTANCE. Associates experiencing hardship are also encouraged to consider other avenues of support such as Employee Assistance Program (EAP), as well as any government and/or local community programs (FEMA, Red Cross, etc.).

Please list all other efforts you have put forth to alleviate your financial hardship. Please keep in mind, the Better Together Fund was designed to be a last resort.

PREVIOUS ASSISTANCE. In the past, ***have you applied for and/or received financial assistance from*** the Better Together Fund? Please note, only one grant will be awarded in a 12 month period.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, date:	Amount received:
No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Section A: ASSOCIATE APPLICATION

Hospital/Location Name:		City:		State:	
Associate Name:			Last four digits of associate social security number:		
Associate Permanent Address (No P.O. Box):		City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Associate E-mail Address:					
Associate Home Phone:			Associate Cell Phone:		
Associate Temporary Address, if applicable (No P.O.):		City:	State:	Zip Code:	
If application is approved, where should the funds be mailed?		Permanent Address <input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary Address <input type="checkbox"/>	Direct Deposit <input type="checkbox"/>	

Associate Position/Title:		Length of Employment with Banfield, BluePearl, VCA or VCA Canada: years months	
Employment Status:	Full Time <input type="checkbox"/>	Part Time 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Dependent Information			
Dependent Name:		Age:	Relationship to Associate:
Dependent Name:		Age:	Relationship to Associate:
Dependent Name:		Age:	Relationship to Associate:
Dependent Name:		Age:	Relationship to Associate:
Beside eligible dependents, do any other individuals depend on the applicant for financial support?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please briefly describe:			
Associate's Annual Salary: \$		Total Annual Household Income: \$	
Estimated Monthly Household Living Expenses: \$			

Better Together Fund Supplemental Form, Financial

All applicants should complete this form.

Monthly Household Income

Applicant's take-home pay (excluding overtime)	\$	per month
Spouse's / partner's take-home pay	\$	per month
Other household income (from adult children, roommate, etc.)	\$	per month
Self-employment / second job take-home pay	\$	per month
Interest / dividends	\$	per month
Rental income	\$	per month
Retirement / pension / 401(k)	\$	per month
Social Security / SSI	\$	per month
Worker's Compensation / disability	\$	per month
Other	\$	per month
Total Monthly Income	\$	per month

Monthly Expenses

Rent / mortgage	\$	per month
Electricity	\$	per month
Gas	\$	per month
Phone	\$	per month
Water	\$	per month
Food	\$	per month
Car payment(s)	\$	per month
Car insurance	\$	per month
Child care / school tuition	\$	per month
Medical costs that insurance doesn't cover	\$	per month
Loans / credit card payments	\$	per month
Home phone / cell phone	\$	per month
Cable / satellite TV	\$	per month
Tuition, books, fees	\$	per month
Other	\$	per month
Total Monthly Expenses	\$	per month

Liquid Assets/PTO Balance

Total savings/liquid assets	\$
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Additional financial information may be requested for verification of expenses and financial hardship.

Section B: NATURE OF APPLICATION

All applicants should complete Section B. Depending on your situation, you may be asked to complete an additional section and provide more detailed information specific to your situation.

The Better Together Fund is designed to assist Associates with unforeseen hardship events. It is not intended as a substitute for personal insurance coverage, and therefore, grants will not be made for damage to or loss of personal property resulting from burglary or theft, or for preventable repairs or maintenance.

Reason for Application:	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural disaster (fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Manmade disaster (terrorism, or other situation, please describe: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence
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Date Event or Situation Occurred:

Provide a brief description of the situation. Include any information that will help in assessing this application:

Which basic immediate living expenses do you need assistance with?

Housing

Other:

Clothing

Food

Required documentation: Fire, incident or insurance reports, repair estimates or any other documents that support the application should be submitted when available. Please include proof of insurance. Photos may be requested in certain situations.

APPLICANT DECLARATION AND AGREEMENT

Associate Signature and Attestation

I understand that no one is entitled to receive a grant, either virtue of their employment, their history of contributions to the Better Together Fund or because of any precedent inferred from a previous grant from the Better Together Fund. Grants will not be made before an associate has demonstrated a qualifying need.

I understand further that this application will be treated in a confidential manner by the Better Together Fund; however, non-identifying statistical information may be reported to third parties on a periodic basis.

Associates are expected to provide truthful and accurate information. In its due diligence, if the Better Together Fund discovers any information in this application to be materially untrue or fraudulent, I recognize that I may no longer expect this application to be treated confidentially and also recognize that information provided herein may be reported to Banfield Pet Hospital or BluePearl. Moreover, I authorize the Better Together Fund to notify my employer if I submit false statements, and that my employer may then subject me to disciplinary action, which may include termination.

I understand and authorize that submitting my application to the Better Together Fund will result in this information being available to Banfield Pet Hospital, BluePearl, VCA or VCA Canada. In addition, should I qualify for a grant, I also authorize the Better Together Fund access to my payroll direct deposit information with Banfield Pet Hospital, BluePearl, VCA or VCA Canada for the purpose of receiving a grant in a timely manner.

My signature below certifies that the information provided is true and complete, authorizes the Better Together Fund to obtain and/or verify all information necessary to process this application, and releases Medical Management International, Inc. and its affiliates, Banfield Pet Hospital, BluePearl, VCA or VCA Canada and the Better Together Fund, from any liability associated with this application, its rejection, or its funding.

In addition, I hereby agree to provide any requested documentation supporting the information provided.

Associate Applicant Signature:
Date:

If you do not receive a confirmation email within 48 hours of submission of your application, please email the Better Together Fund at bettertogetherfund@marsvethealth.com to inquire about the status of your application.