



Local 4-200 FAQ: USW Strike Assistance Program

How does strike assistance work?

The goal of our Local Union's strike assistance program is to provide critical resources to members and their families, including help paying bills, buying groceries and accessing medical insurance during a strike.

What is the USW Strike and Defense Fund?

The USW Strike and Defense Fund was created to help union members during strikes and lockouts. The fund provides an allotment to the local union based on the number of members on strike. The local receives funds starting in the third week of a strike. Assistance is then distributed by the local union on the basis of individual need.

How does need-based assistance work?

The key to winning a strike or lockout is maintaining solidarity across the entire membership. While everyone is financially impacted by a labor dispute, different people have different economic circumstances. The idea is that we all work together to support each other.

Our local union will create an assistance committee to assess needs and

distribute funds. The assistance committee and officers get training and support from the International union, but your local leadership is responsible for determining how to manage and distribute the funds.

Steelworkers have maintained our Strike and Defense Fund on this basis for more than 40 years, and have successfully won major fights – some lasting for long periods of time.

Can we raise additional funds?

Yes, your local union is encouraged to reach out to other unions, community organizations, businesses, and individuals to ask for donations. Those funds will help build and supplement your local's Strike and Defense Fund and send a strong message to management that you're prepared to hold the line as long as necessary.

Can I work another job while on strike?

Yes, working a temporary job not at RWJ New Brunswick Hospital can help support the strike. Make sure to let your picket captain know so they can adjust your picketing schedule accordingly.

**For the most up to date information,
text USW4200 to the number 47486.**