

# Financial Resource Guidebook

## General TCU Resources

### **Students of Concern Form:**

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TexasChristianUniv&layout\\_id=9](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TexasChristianUniv&layout_id=9)

The Dean of Students Office has a [Students of Concern Form](#) for all TCU stakeholders to complete as a means to share concerns about our students related to concerning behavior, medical issues reported by the student, or academic concerns. Once a completed form is submitted online, a representative will follow-up with each student to provide them with support and/or resources that match the student's individual needs. This form is not for reporting imminent or life-endangering threats of harm that involve a student. For emergencies, please contact the TCU Police Department at 817-257-7777 or 911.

### **Student Success Team**

The Student Success Team (SST), comprised of stakeholders from both Academic Affairs (Academic Advising, Financial Aid, Student Access & Accommodation, Student Support Services) and Student Affairs (Dean of Students formerly Campus Life, Residential Life, Counseling, Inclusiveness and Intercultural Services, Religious and Spiritual Life, Student Success) and Athletics, was created to provide more support for students. This is an inward facing team of collaborative stakeholders who field concerns from the TCU community; this group does not handle parent calls or replace any TCU outward facing resources. This group meets weekly to discuss students who have been brought to our attention via the Students of Concern form who could benefit from additional support or referral to resources, but may not have reached a threshold of required intervention.

### **Academic Support Helpline**

A professional academic advisor will be available to answer general advising questions and make appropriate referrals to other resources/offices on campus. However, they will not be providing individual advising. If they are not the student's academic advisor of record, they will not be accessing the student's individual record. If it is necessary for an advisor to access a student's file to answer specific questions, the student will be referred to their academic advisor of record for advising and follow up. To contact the Academic Support Helpline, please call 817-257-7486, Monday-Friday from 9:00am-12:00noon and 1:00pm-4:00pm.

## TCU Financial Resources

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> (**complete each year**)

\*Create an account or login to an existing account. You will be asked to create a four-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). Be sure not to forget this number!

Other helpful notes regarding how to complete your FAFSA application:  
<https://financialaid.tcu.edu/resources/filing-fafsa.php>

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**Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA):** (**complete each year**)  
[https://financialaid.tcu.edu/pdfs/2022/21-22TASFAA\\_Packet\\_English.pdf](https://financialaid.tcu.edu/pdfs/2022/21-22TASFAA_Packet_English.pdf)

TASFA is for Texas resident students not eligible to file FAFSA.

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**Other Financial Aid:** <https://financialaid.tcu.edu/apply-for-aid/index.php>

1. **Scholarships:** <https://financialaid.tcu.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/index.php>. There are several types of scholarships (e.g., academic, leadership, special interests, transfer, graduate).  
TCU now uses a scholarship application portal: <https://tcu.academicworks.com/>. You will be asked to create an account and complete a brief, generic application. From there, browse the different scholarship options and apply for *all* that you qualify for!
2. **Grants:** Similar to scholarships, grants are FREE MONEY! You do not have to pay them back once you graduate. Some grants will be offered to you automatically through your FAFSA application. ALWAYS ACCEPT GRANTS OFFERED TO YOU! Other grants require you to submit specific applications: <https://financialaid.tcu.edu/types-of-aid/grants.php>
3. **Work Study:** <https://financialaid.tcu.edu/types-of-aid/work-study.php>. Again, you must apply for FAFSA to be eligible for work study. This is a federally funded need-based employment program available to eligible undergraduate students.
4. **Loans:** Loans are NOT free money. You will have to pay them back PLUS interest starting six (6) months after you graduate. Loans are typically offered through your FAFSA application, but additional resources can be found here:  
<https://financialaid.tcu.edu/types-of-aid/loans/index.php>

\*Note: Most financial aid options are going to require that you complete a FAFSA or TASFA application, so be sure to do that *each year*. They also usually require personal statements, transcripts, and recommendation letters. Below are some helpful resources:

**Personal statements:** Follow instructions! Some applications call for specific information to be included in your personal statement. For example, some may want you to talk about your values while others want to hear more about your educational and professional goals. Here's a helpful resource:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/job\\_search\\_writing/preparing\\_an\\_application/writing\\_the\\_personal\\_statement/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/job_search_writing/preparing_an_application/writing_the_personal_statement/index.html).

**Recommendation letters:** **These should be requested several weeks, if not months, prior to the application deadline.** Again, follow instructions! The application will specify who is eligible to write a letter on your behalf. Some applications want it to be a faculty member, while others will accept letters from other individuals (e.g., advisor, employer, pastor). Choose someone who can speak to your skills and strengths as they relate to the application. If it is an academic scholarship, perhaps it would be wise to choose a faculty member or research advisor. If it is a leadership based scholarship, a club advisor may be able to speak directly to your leadership skills.

Guidelines for requesting a recommendation letter:

1. Be sure to state the deadline for them to provide the letter. Again, give them time to write your letter! You do not want something that was thrown together last minute.
2. Include who the letter should be sent to: recipient name, title, address (this may be Search Committee, Admissions Committee). Also include whether it should be sent directly via email or uploaded into a portal. Alternatively, should your recommender be expecting a recommendation letter link/application to be sent directly to them?
3. Include some bragging points about yourself! What are your strengths? Why do you feel you are deserving of this aid?
4. It is best to have an updated CV or resume to share with your recommender, and ideally, a cover letter that explains how your interaction with your recommender helped you professionally. For instance, if you took a class with a professor and enjoyed learning from your teacher, how did that class impact you or influence you? What kinds of personal relationships did you create with your mentor that positively influenced you?
5. Refresh your recommender's memory! Oftentimes, recommenders are busy and have interactions with countless students. Remind them of how long you all have known each other and in what capacity (e.g., supervisory, academic).
6. Finally, be sure to state how you would like to be addressed in the letter. Do you want to use your full legal name, a nickname, a hyphenated name, etc.?

**Transcripts:** Most scholarship and grant applications require official or unofficial copies of transcripts. Again, pay close attention to what they are requesting of you. Some applications will NOT accept unofficial transcripts.

1. Request a transcript via TCU: <https://transcripts.tcu.edu/>. **Official transcripts cost \$10.25.**

You can also download an *unofficial* transcript via my.tcu.edu. Once you login, go to “Academic Records”, click “View Unofficial Transcript”, click “Submit”, select the request date, and then click “View Report.” You may have to clear the Pop-Up Blocker from your browser. From there, you can download a PDF copy of your transcript and save it as a PDF on your computer.

2. If you have attended any other institution, be sure to request or download a copy of your transcript from that institution as well. These applications will want to see *all* your academic transcripts.

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**Frog Family Crisis Fund:** <https://faith.tcu.edu/frog-family-crisis-fund-faq/>

The Frog Family Crisis Fund has provided financial assistance to students affected by catastrophic or emergency situations. These have included circumstances which are sudden, unexpected, and affect a student’s ability to thrive academically and beyond. Examples include, but are not limited to: accident, natural disaster, major illness, theft, unavoidable student loss of income, emergency travel, fire damage, and/or need for temporary housing. During COVID-19 the fund can support a loss of income that impacts critical needs and essential COVID-19 related expenses. To apply, login using your TCU username and password here: [https://faith.tcu.edu/wp-login.php?redirect\\_to=https%3A%2F%2Ffaith.tcu.edu%2Fsef%2F](https://faith.tcu.edu/wp-login.php?redirect_to=https%3A%2F%2Ffaith.tcu.edu%2Fsef%2F).

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**TCU Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II):** <https://www.tcu.edu/protect-the-purple/higher-education-emergency-relief-fund.php>

From our website: “The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) is a one-time, federally-funded grant that provides financial assistance to college students to help with unexpected expenses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal guidelines require universities to give priority to students with high financial need and distribute the funds directly to students. HEERF II funding was authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. Students eligible to receive funding as part of

HEERF II will receive direct notification from TCU. Students with questions about the distribution process, please contact Financial Services: [finserv@tcu.edu](mailto:finserv@tcu.edu) or 817-257-7836. Students and families experiencing financial hardships due to the pandemic—regardless of whether or not they qualified for HEERF II funding—should contact the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid as there may be additional sources of funding available.”

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### External Resources

**The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program:** <https://gmsp.org/>

From their site: “The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline area of interest. Continuing Gates Millennium Scholars may request funding for a graduate degree program in one of the following discipline areas: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science.”

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**Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF):** <https://www.hsf.net>

From their site: “Founded in 1975, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) empowers students and parents with the knowledge and resources to successfully complete a higher education, while providing support services and scholarships to as many exceptional students, Scholars, and Alumni as possible. HSF awards more than \$30 million in scholarships annually and, depending upon available funds, HSF Scholars may also be eligible to receive a scholarship, which range from \$500-\$5,000 and awarded directly to students”

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**Point Foundation (Point):** <https://pointfoundation.org/thepoint/scholarship/>

From their site: “Point Foundation (Point) is the nation’s largest higher education scholarship-granting organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students. Point’s multifaceted support of its scholarship recipients (“scholars”) extends far beyond direct financial contribution toward the cost of their education. Each scholar is paired with a mentor and participates in leadership development programs and events.”

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**The Udall Foundation:** <https://www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/Scholarship/Scholarship.aspx>

From their site: “The Udall Foundation awards scholarships to college sophomores and juniors for leadership, public service, and commitment to issues related to Native American nations or to the environment. In 2021, the Udall Foundation anticipates awarding 55 scholarships of up to \$7,000 each. The Udall scholarship honors the legacies of Morris Udall and Stewart Udall, whose careers had a significant impact on Native American self-governance, health care, and the stewardship of public lands and natural resources.”

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**The National Association of Black Journalist Scholarship:**

<https://www.nabj.org/page/SEEDScholarships>

From their site: “National Association of Black Journalists annually awards several non-renewable \$2,500 scholarships to African American college students. All recipients receive an all-expense-paid trip to the NABJ convention and must participate in student convention projects. All applicants must be a student member of NABJ, must be majoring in or pursuing a career in journalism. All students must have be enrolled in an accredited four-year college or university have at least one year of school remaining. For more information, please see the scholarship website.”

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### [Fellowships for Graduate Students](#)

**The Ford Foundation Fellowship:**

<https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm>

From their site: “Through its program of fellowships, the Ford Foundation seeks to increase the diversity of the nation’s college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students. Predoctoral, dissertation, and postdoctoral fellowships are awarded in a national competition administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on behalf of the Ford Foundation.”

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### **The Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship:**

[https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA\\_171962](https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_171962)

From their site: “Awards will be made for study in research-based Ph.D. or Sc.D. programs. Examples include: American studies, anthropology, archaeology, art and theater history, astronomy, chemistry, communications, computer science, cultural studies, earth sciences, economics, engineering, ethnic studies, ethnomusicology, geography, history, international relations, language, life sciences, linguistics, literature, mathematics, performance study, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, religious studies, sociology, urban planning, and women’s studies. Also eligible are interdisciplinary ethnic studies programs, such as African American studies and Native American studies, and other interdisciplinary programs, such as area studies, peace studies, and social justice. Research-based fields of education are eligible if the major field of study is listed above and is used to describe the Ph.D. or Sc.D. program of the applicant (e.g., sociology of education, anthropology and education).”

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### **Institute for Citizens and Scholars Fellowships:**

- **Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowship:**  
<https://citizensandscholars.org/fellowships/newcombe/>

From their site: “The Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are designed to encourage original and significant study of ethical or religious values in all fields of the humanities and social sciences, and particularly to help Ph.D. candidates in these fields complete their dissertation work in a timely manner. In addition to topics in religious studies or in ethics (philosophical or religious), dissertations appropriate to the Newcombe Fellowship competition might explore the ethical implications of foreign policy, the values influencing political decisions, the moral codes of other cultures, and religious or ethical issues reflected in history or literature.” The application is typically due in **November** of each year. Be sure to check the website for application guidelines and deadlines.

- **Women’s Studies Dissertation Fellowship:**  
<https://citizensandscholars.org/fellowships/ws/>

From their site: “The WW Women’s Studies Fellowships support the final year of dissertation writing for Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences whose work addresses topics of women and gender in interdisciplinary and original ways. The

most competitive applications include not only a clear, thorough, and compelling description of the candidate's work, but also evidence of an enduring interest in and commitment to women's issues and scholarship on women and gender." The application is typically due in **October** of each year. Be sure to check the website for application guidelines and deadlines.

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**American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Fellowships:**

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/current-opportunities/american/dissertation-fellowships/>

From their site: "The purpose of the American Dissertation Fellowship is to offset a scholar's living expenses while she completes her dissertation. The fellowship must be used for the final year of writing the dissertation. Applicants must have completed all course work, passed all preliminary examinations, and received approval for their research proposals or plans by the preceding November. Students holding fellowships for writing a dissertation in the year prior to the AAUW fellowships year are not eligible. Open to applicants in all fields of study. Scholars engaged in science, technology, engineering and math fields or those researching gender issues are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of scholarly excellence; quality and originality of project design; and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research." Applications are typically open August 1–November 1 each year. Be sure to check the website for application guidelines and deadlines.

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**National Academy of Education (NAEd)/Spencer Dissertation Fellowships:**

<https://naeducation.org/naedspencer-dissertation-fellowship-program/>

From their site: "The Dissertation Fellowship Program seeks to encourage a new generation of scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. These \$27,500 fellowships support individuals whose dissertations show potential for bringing fresh and constructive perspectives to the history, theory, analysis, or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world. This highly competitive program aims to identify the most talented researchers conducting dissertation research related to education. The Dissertation Fellowship program receives many more applications than it can fund. This year 35 fellowships will be awarded." The application is typically due in **October** of each year. Be sure to check the website for application guidelines and deadlines.

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## Special Organizations

### **Greek Life Scholarships:**

Most Greek organizations (e.g., National Multicultural Greek Council, National Panhellenic, Interfraternity Council) offer scholarships through the national councils and/or specific greek organizations. Check out your organization's national website to see what scholarships they offer their members. Some offer need-based scholarships, others offer leadership scholarships, and some even offer emergency relief funds!

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### **Honor Societies & Student Organizations:**

Are you a member of a national or local honor society? Check out your organization's website for scholarship opportunities!

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### **Faith-based Scholarships:**

There are numerous faith-based scholarships available as well. Simple search "faith-based scholarships" in your web browser. You can select scholarships specific to your faith. Pay close attention to the qualifications. Sometimes they are specific to certain schools and/or majors.

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## National and State Resources

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

SNAP helps low-income and temporarily unemployed people purchase nutritious foods. An individual or a family may be eligible for SNAP even if they own a home, don't have a mailing address or are undocumented. Learn more about SNAP and the monthly income limits here: <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/food/snap-food-benefits>.

Apply here: <https://www.yourtexasbenefits.com/Learn/Home#login>

You will need the following information for the application:

- Create a username and login
- Social Security number and birth date
- Citizenship or immigration status
- Money from jobs and other sources
- The value of cars and other property

- Costs you pay for bills
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**Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP):** <https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/childrens-health-insurance-program/>

CHIP provides health insurance coverage for Texas children from low-income families. There are two ways to apply for CHIP:

1. Call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).
  2. Fill out an application through the Health Insurance Marketplace®. If it looks like anyone in your household qualifies for Medicaid or CHIP, we’ll send your information to your state agency. They’ll contact you about enrollment. When you submit your Marketplace application, you’ll also find out if you qualify for an individual insurance plan with savings based on your income instead. Create an account or log in to an existing account to get started. Create an account here: <https://www.healthcare.gov/create-account>.
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### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

TANF provides temporary financial assistance for families with children under age 18 while parents are seeking employment. Learn more about TANF here:

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/cash/tanf-cash-help>. TANF has three options for assistance: (1) TANF for families (for those with children), (2) One-time TANF (for crisis situations), and (3) One-time TANF for grandparents (for grandparents who care for a child who gets TANF).

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## **Tarrant County Resources**

**Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB):** <https://tafb.org/>

TAFB has many options:

1. You can visit a pantry near you. They ask that you call in advance. You can view locations and find specific location phone numbers here: <https://tafb.org/find-food/>.
2. They can also bring food to you. Call 817-534-0814, if you are homebound.
3. There are mobile pantries at various locations throughout Tarrant County. View locations and pantry times here: <https://tafb.org/wp-content/uploads/mobile/mobile-pantry-schedule.pdf>.
4. They can also help you apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). You can contact a Community

Resource Specialists at 1-866-430-6143 for help with applying for the programs below.  
Learn more here: <http://tafb.org/snap/>

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**New Life Center Men's Shelter:**

[https://www.homelesshelterdirectory.org/shelter/tx\\_cornerstone-assistance-network](https://www.homelesshelterdirectory.org/shelter/tx_cornerstone-assistance-network)

New Life Center is a home where men who have faced homelessness can focus on education and meeting their long-term career goals. During their residence, each man is provided supportive services such as case management, mentoring, and spiritual, physical, emotional, and financial guidance. Despite where these men may come from, their future possibilities are limitless. Residents graduate from college every year, including one resident who graduated as Valedictorian from TCU. The Shelter is located at 1628 Sixth Ave. Fort Worth, Texas 76104.

Those interested in being a resident may complete the application and interview process in person, Monday mornings at 9:30 am. No appointment is necessary. Applicants must be currently homeless and drug- and alcohol-free.

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**CoAct:** [www.coactntx.org](http://www.coactntx.org)

CoAct is a non-profit social design studio that develops strategic responses to address pressing community challenges and equip our partners with the knowledge, capacity, and support systems to aid in creating lasting impact.

Contact: Jesse Herrera | Founder & Executive Director  
301 Commerce Street, Suite 1410 | Fort Worth | Texas 76102  
817-239-9561 | [jesse.herrera@coactntx.org](mailto:jesse.herrera@coactntx.org) | [www.coactntx.org](http://www.coactntx.org)

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**Tarrant County Emergency Rental Assistance:**

<https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/county/social-services/rental-assistance-application.html>

Tarrant County has received Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the U.S. Treasury to assist eligible households who are unable to pay rent or utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Apply here: <https://getrenthelp.com/>.

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**Fort Worth Housing Solutions:** <https://www.fwhs.org/>

2021 Housing Choice Voucher Wait List participants: Beginning July 1, 2021, you may be eligible for an Emergency Housing Voucher if you are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, recently homeless and at high risk of becoming homeless again, or fleeing domestic violence or human trafficking. If you meet one of the four criteria, apply through Tarrant County Homeless Coalition here: <https://etoclient49.socialsolutionsportal.com/intake/8274eafa-264d-4d71-9cc5-196d9df4e206>

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**Catholic Charities (CCFW):** <https://catholiccharitiesfortworth.org/>

CCFW's mission is to provide service to those in need, to advocate compassion and justice in the structures of society, and to call all people of good will to do the same. They offer various services listed below:

- **Transportation:** <https://ccfwtransportation.com/>  
CCFW Transportation provides rides for employment, medical, education, public benefits offices and quality of life trips. They will look for available options that meet each client's needs whether they are elderly, disabled or looking for ways to reach their employment destinations. To find out more, call 817.336.8714.
- **Dental:** <https://ccfwdentalclinic.com/>  
The Dental Clinic provides high-quality dental care with a fee structure designed for low and moderate-income families. Services include preventive care, general services, and specialty services. CCFW dental services are open for all procedures and are working under a very strict protocol following the recommendations from the regulatory agencies. These include more spaced appointments, increased PPE on staff, and the installation of air filters. They aim to safely serve you in these hard times. If you have a dental need, please call or text 817.600.1461.
- **Tax Preparation Services:** <https://catholiccharitiesfortworth.org/tax-preparation/>  
CCFW provides free income-tax preparation assistance with IRS Certified Professionals.
- **Immigration Services:** <http://ccfwimmigration.com/>  
CCFW's Immigration Consulting Services (ICS) provides legal assistance to individuals who are eligible under the law to apply for immigration benefits. Their focus is the reunification of families. Their services include personal consultation, application preparation and filing, and administrative legal representation for our clients. They cover

all areas of family-based immigration, humanitarian relief, and citizenship services. To learn more, visit [www.ccfwimmigration.com](http://www.ccfwimmigration.com), call 817.289.4399, or email [ics@ccdofw.org](mailto:ics@ccdofw.org).

- **Refugee Services:**

CCFW's Refugee Services consist of several programs designed to assist refugees and asylees who have been forced to leave their homeland because of persecution based on race, religion or political affiliation.

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### **Community Action Partners (CAP):**

<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/neighborhoods/cap>

The City of Fort Worth's Community Action Partners (CAP) serves as the Community Action Agency for Tarrant County and provides comprehensive services to economically disadvantaged individuals, families and the elderly. CAP changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. They offer a variety of services listed below:

- **Utility Service Assistance:**

<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/neighborhoods/cap/energy-assistance>

CAP offers utility (electric, gas or propane) assistance to families with low or fixed household incomes who reside in Tarrant County. Assistance is provided to residents in order to avoid disruptions. CAP works with families and individuals to overcome barriers to achieve self-sufficiency. There are two ways to apply for assistance: Online or Mail-in Application with copies of your documents. The city will assess applications and solely determine eligibility and/or the amount of financial help available to each household based upon current total household income in the last 30 days. The city will pay assistance directly to the landlord, property management company, financial institution, mortgage company and/or utility provider. For more information on eligibility, requirements, and how to apply, visit:

<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/neighborhoods/cap/energy-assistance>

- **Water Payment Assistance:**

<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/neighborhoods/cap/water-assistance>

Donations assist City of Fort Worth Water customers in paying their bill or plumbing repairs related to a pressurized leak that has led to increased consumption. For more information on eligibility, requirements, and how to apply, visit:

<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/neighborhoods/cap/water-assistance>