

Rubric for Objective Decisions for Aid Applicants

	Crucial (7-9)	Moderate (4-6)	Non-Urgent (1-3)
Urgency of Need	The requested aid is for immediate needs to prevent imminent harm, ensure safety, or maintain basic life functions (e.g., emergency respite care, life-sustaining medical equipment repair).	The requested aid addresses a significant daily challenge that impedes life quality and stability, but is not immediately life-threatening (e.g., standard physical therapy sessions, accessible vehicle modification for non-emergency use).	The requested aid addresses a significant daily challenge that impedes life quality and stability, but is not immediately life-threatening (e.g., standard physical therapy sessions, accessible vehicle modification for non-emergency use).
Impact of Aid	The funding completely resolves a critical barrier, allowing the individual to live safely at home or access an essential, life-altering service with permanent/long-term effects (e.g., a one-time home ramp installation for safe egress).	The funding provides substantial relief or access to services that significantly improve daily functioning or stability but are temporary or only partial solutions (e.g., covering three months of therapy sessions).	The funding provides minor improvements to the daily routine or comfort level, but the core challenge remains largely unchanged (e.g., covering the cost of a single specialized blanket).
Financial Hardship	Applicant household income is below 50% of the Area Median Income, and existing debt/expenses demonstrate an inability to cover any of the cost without aid. Extreme financial distress verified.	Applicant household income is between 50% and 80% of AMI, and covering the cost would create significant financial strain or require sacrificing other necessities.	Applicant household income is above 80% AMI, or financial statements suggest the family could reasonably afford the expense with careful budgeting or payment plans.
Alternative Availability	No alternative funding sources, insurance coverage, or government programs are available. All options have been exhausted, verified by application/denial letters. This is truly the last resort.	Some alternative resources might exist (e.g., other small charities, specific government programs with long waitlists), but they are not readily accessible or only cover a fraction of the cost.	The requested aid is likely covered by existing insurance, government programs (Medicaid waiver programs), or other common local charities. Applicant has not explored or documented these avenues.

Maximum Score **36**

Minimum Score **4**