

## HOUSE OFFICER LOAN FUND

The House Officer Loan Fund was established by the medical staff of the Maine Medical Center in the 1950's, its goal being to assist house officers in their daily living expenses. The need had developed because physicians were getting married before they finished their training. The monies were donated by the teaching attending staff (surgical and medical) from fees received for services supervised by the attendings and carried out by the house staff. In the early 1960's, a particularly impecunious group of house officers nearly drained the fund and an arrangement was developed whereby the Maine National Bank made available loans guaranteed by the Maine Medical Center. By the early 1970's, stipends had become reasonably supportive and the house officer loan fund reverted to a self-contained fund to respond to short-term financial crises visited upon house officers (furnaces blowing up, etc.).

In this latter circumstance, the house officer loan fund is readily available to current house officers with a letter of application defining the need and the anticipated pay back within one or two years, a no-interest loan. The loan fund is not available for assistance with capital acquisitions such as houses, sailboats, etc.

On a rare occasion, the house officer loan fund has been used to pay off the principle of a previous loan, no longer renewable by the original bank or fund. In this circumstance, the loan is made by the house officer loan fund with interest at "prime rate" being charged, although that interest is not charged until the resident/fellow has completed his stay at the Maine Medical Center.

It is expected that repayment of these latter loans will begin within six months of leaving the Maine Medical Center and be completed within one or two years.

A letter of application from the house officer should define the need, list the budget of six or twelve months, and define the anticipated repayment. The application will be considered by a two member committee of attending staff with a response usually occurring within one or two weeks.

The budget should include:

- ✓ Income - gross income from MMC
- ✓ Withholdings (tax, health insurance, etc.)
- ✓ Net income from MMC
- ✓ Other income (spouse, family, etc.)
- ✓ Other assets
- ✓ Checking accounts
- ✓ Savings accounts
- ✓ Expenses - Residence (rent/mortgage)
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Utilities
- ✓ Liabilities - Loans (List amount of loan, institution granting loan, repayment schedules.)