

Lockwood Community Church

Benevolent Fund Policy

Purpose

The Benevolent Fund exists to provide financial assistance to individuals facing urgent, short-term financial crises. It is not intended for ongoing financial support. The church reserves the right to adjust or deny any request and may offer alternative forms of assistance beyond monetary aid.

Eligibility & Considerations

- Financial assistance is granted based on need, not relationships with church leaders or financial contributions to the church.
- The church does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, national origin, age, geographic location, or disability.
- The Deacons may approve short-term (or emergency) aid to cover essential needs such as food, housing, transportation, and medical expenses (including counseling).

Method of Assistance

- Whenever possible, financial aid is provided directly to service providers (e.g., landlords, utility companies, medical offices).
- Assistance may also be given in the form of goods or services rather than cash.

Basic Requirements

To qualify for assistance, applicants must:

1. Be active participants in the church.
2. Demonstrate a short-term financial need due to a crisis (e.g., medical emergency, accident, job loss).
3. Be willing to receive financial counseling if submitting more than one request within a rolling 12-month period.

Exclusions

The Benevolent Fund (*per IRS guidelines, the fund cannot be used in these cases*) cannot be used for :

1. Legal fees.
2. Long-term or recurring expenses.

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