

Benevolence Policy

Approved 9/26/18

As an integral part of the care ministry of Generation Church, monies from the general operating budget may be used to provide financial assistance to individuals or families who are experiencing financial or physical needs.

The purpose of such acts of generosity is to show God's love and compassion to those in need, first by ministering to those owners and attendees of the church, then by ministering to our community in times of need or crisis.

PHILOSOPHY

When it comes to helping people, there are some foundational beliefs at Generation Church that shape the way we help people, and the why behind the what.

- People in need matter to God.
- No member of the body of Christ should be without food, shelter and basic transportation needs.
- God's people are commanded to care for each other, first inside the body of Christ, then to help others as a form of compassion and outreach.
- Although money is a need, the final solution to the need usually involves changes in the beneficiary's individual, relational, and spiritual life.

GUIDELINES

To provide clarity and order in a sometimes complicated process, Generation Church has set guidelines to aid in the administration of financial assistance for those in need.

- Each application for financial assistance will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Each individual or family seeking assistance from Generation Church must read the benevolence guidelines and fully complete an application,
- If an applicant is not an attendee or owner of Generation Church, they will first be recommended to local outreach and assistance partnerships before assistance is considered.
- If an applicant is an attendee or owner of Generation Church, they may be recommended to a local outreach and assistance partner depending on the assistance being requested.
- If an applicant request for financial assistant after having received assistance in the past, they may first be required to attend financial counseling before future aide will be considered.
- All assistance for applicants will be considered by the Benevolence Team as defined by the Generation Church Constitution and Bylaws.

- To allow time for proper communication and vetting, all decisions for assistance will take at least three to five days for decisions to be rendered.
- All assistance granted will be given discretely after a weekend worship experience.
- To maintain financial integrity, all assistance granted will be given in the form of gift cards or paid directly to individual vendors.
- All financial assistance will come from the Generation Church Operating Account funded from the tithes and offerings collected from the congregants of the church. No assistance will be solicited or collected, from others including solicitations from one on one ask, small groups, or Generation Church social media accounts.

OBJECTIVE FACTORS FOR DETERMINING ASSISTANCE

To assist in providing assistance for those in need, while being good stewards of the resources entrusted to the church, Generation Church uses several criteria to help prioritize request. The following factors are evaluated when determining approvals of assistance.

Priority of the Need - Though Generation Church will seek to respond to all legitimate needs, its resources are finite and limited. The leadership of the church must often make difficult choices among situations of legitimate need in allocating its resources. Priority will be given toward those needs threatening an individual or family's short-term subsistence -- Crisis needs.

Crisis Needs. Short-term needs brought on through a loss of employment, medical leave, or similar event. The individual or family faces a short-term reduction in income or escalation of expenses which prevents them from making ends meet during a definable time period.

Chronic Needs. Long-term income shortfall due to on-going medical or emotional issues, often causing unemployability or disability. Individuals or families in this group often request support from the church each month, or several times each year, for many years in a row.

Catastrophic Needs The church recognizes that under severe circumstances a situation may be categorized as Catastrophic. This may be defined as one who is in situations of severe financial stress due to: (1) a serious or on-going medical need, (2) loss of shelter, or (3) other extraordinary circumstances that the Benevolence Team, along with the Executive Staff deem as Catastrophic.

Size of Financial Need - The church seeks to maintain a wise assessment of the church's limits and resources to extend meaningful help in every situation. Generally, finances will not be extended outside of the context of a "plan" -- that is, a practical action plan for the individual or family which addresses the source of future financial resources.

Other Resources Available to the Applicant - Financial help will be extended along with all outside sources of help (including family, private and governmental agencies). It is the church's goal to leverage its resources through effective networking with other care providers.

Relationship With the Church - Biblically, the church recognizes as a priority its duty to care for its own while seeking to be a good neighbor to all in need regardless of their affiliation with the church. Since the church is oriented toward irreligious seekers, limited funds will be made available to help everyone but

the priorities will first be Generation Owners, church attendees, and then those not affiliated with the church.

ASSISTANCE MATRIX

The following matrix has been established as a framework for the scope of assistance available through Benevolence at Generation Church. These criteria enumerate the maximum assistance generally available to an individual or family from the church during any fiscal year. The assistance is categorized based upon their length and type of the individual or family's involvement.

INVOLEMENT	EXPERIENCE ATTENDANCE	GENERATION OWNERS	SERVING &/or GROUP PARTICIPATION
1 - 6 MONTHS	X	Y	Z
6 - 12 MONTHS	X + A	Y + A	Z + A
1 - 2 YEARS	X + 2(A)	Y + 2(A)	Z + 2(A)
2 YEARS OR MORE	X + 3(A)	Y + 3(A)	Z + 3(A)
X = \$100, Y = \$200, Z = \$100, A = \$100			

Additional factors that may be considered:

Giving Record: If the applicant is an active giver, the benevolence team may increase the amount given by up to 50% of what was donated to the church in the previous year up to \$1000.

Leadership: The amount Y or Z may be increased by \$100 if the person is the leader of a ministry or team in the church.

Maximum amount: The maximum amount of benevolence given will not exceed \$1500 in any given fiscal year unless it is deemed a special case by the Executive Team.



Benevolence Request Form

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Church: Generation Other _____ Length Attended _____

Job Status: Full-Time Temporary Part-Time Unemployed

Individuals Names in Household:

Spouse _____ Birthday _____

Children/Other Individuals _____ Birthday _____

Children/Other Individuals _____ Birthday _____

Children/Other Individuals _____ Birthday _____

Dwelling Information:

Mode of Payment: Renting Buying Amount of Monthly Payment \$ _____

Previous Address: _____ How Long: _____

Income *	Wage amount

Expense *	Payment amount

* Use back of sheet if additional space is required.

Request for:

electric/utility bill propane gas child needs groceries

other: _____ Amount Requested \$ _____