

## EMCC Benevolence Policies and Guidelines

**Note:** EMCC partners with Freedom Life. If the applicant is involved with the Justice System, they will be referred to Freedom Life for assistance.

The purpose of the Benevolence Fund is to provide financial assistance on an emergency/urgent need basis to active members or regular attenders of EMCC. A regular attendee is defined as someone who regularly attended EMCC for a minimum of 6 months (at least 50% of the time) and who is actively involved in the EMCC community.

The urgent need for assistance may have resulted from, but is not limited to:

- A loss of employment
- A family death
- A sickness that resulted in loss of income
- Emergency medical situation that resulted in a personal hardship and/or loss of income
- Emergency medical bills

Common forms of assistance include but are not limited to: utility bills (gas, water, electric), food, necessary clothing, rent, mortgage, emergency medical bills, emergency prescription assistance, car repair when car is used for work.

### **Guidelines:**

- Assistance may be offered up to \$500 per approved request. Assistance will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may vary depending on funds available and the applicant's circumstances.
- If approved, payment will be made directly to the payee. The applicant may be asked for payment information upon approval of request.
- Households may apply for emergency assistance 1 time in a 12-month period.
- The Benevolence Fund may not be applicable for cases which need long-term financial support. EMCC has the right to adjust or to disapprove an applicant's request and may consider providing assistance other than monetary help.
- The Benevolence Fund will not assist with: Court Fees, Fines, Tickets, Credit Card Debt, Ongoing financial Needs, Repeated Car Repairs, Insurance Bills, Rent when eviction is inevitable, Mortgage when foreclosure is inevitable.
- Falsifying information on an application will disqualify applicant from consideration for assistance.
- Permission to speak to employer is not required but strongly encouraged in regard to consideration for assistance.
- Assistance is a process. Requests for assistance do not result in immediate action. Applicants are encouraged to apply for assistance well before their bills are due.

While we are not able to meet every need, please know that we are prayerfully considering every application as we seek God's wisdom and discernment for how best to truly help those who have applied for assistance.