



Field of Interest

Guidelines for Medical/Benevolence Fund Disbursements

General Guidelines

The medical/benevolence fund is intended as a source of last resort, to be used when the family or individual requesting assistance has explored all other possibilities of help from family, friends, savings, or investments. It is intended to be a temporary help during a time of crisis. Assistance from the benevolence fund is intended to fill a short-term need of six months or less.

Those requesting help must be willing to give the Benevolence Fund Committee permission to follow up on any of the information provided to the committee. The committee will be sensitive to confidential issues.

Criteria

The stated purpose of the benevolence fund is to meet people's basic needs. Normally, these needs are defined as:

- housing, rent or lodging
- food
- clothing
- medical treatment
- transportation to or from a place of employment
- phone/internet services
- professional counseling appointments
- treatment or rehabilitation facilities
- funeral expenses

Needs that may *not* be met by the benevolence fund include:

- purchase or reimbursement for any personal assets including but not limited to computers, smart phones or personal electronics, etc.



- business investments, or anything that brings financial profit to the individual or family
- paying off credit cards. Exceptions can be made when an individual has had to use a credit card in a crisis or emergency (e.g., hospitalization, death, etc.)
- needs of individuals who are wanted by the law or for paying fines as a result of breaking the law
- legal fees
- penalties relating to late payments or irresponsible actions
- business ventures or investments
- fees associated with cable television service