

## Mariners Church Benevolence Guidelines

The Mariners Benevolence Team seeks to support individuals and families who are experiencing relational and financial crisis. This is accomplished generally in two ways:

1. Help develop and execute a plan for sustainable living within Christ-centered community and,
2. When appropriate, use Benevolence Funds to create a bridge to sustainability.

If you are experiencing a difficult season and are in need, the Mariners Benevolence Team is ready to connect you to relationships and resources that promote a sustainable lifestyle. Please review the following guidelines before completing a Benevolence Request Form.

### Benevolence Request Guidelines:

1. Financial assistance is for people within the Mariners Church body ONLY. Potential recipients must be regular attendees of weekend services, have completed Rooted and are involved in a Mariners ministry on a regular basis for the previous 4-6 months. Recommendations of other members in the church or records of involvement in a Mariners ministry may be used.
2. The purpose of the Benevolence Fund is to provide financial assistance to meet basic necessities - rent or mortgage assistance, past due utilities, and urgent medical payments. Financial assistance does not cover consumer, credit card or student loan debt.
3. If approved; checks will only be written directly to a provider (landlord, utility company, medical provider, etc.).
4. Requests for financial assistance will be responded to within approximately 2 weeks from the receipt of a completed application.
5. Financial assistance is seen as a one-time gift. In extraordinary circumstances, a recipient may receive a gift for a second time - what qualifies as extraordinary circumstances will be determined by the Benevolence Team.
6. Financial aid is a gift and not a loan. A recipient is not obligated to return or "pay back" any financial assistance provided. A recipient may donate money to Mariners Church at a later date if he/she desires.
7. A potential recipient must first go to family members for financial aid before he/she will be considered for benevolence assistance. If a potential recipient will not go to family members for financial support, there must be a legitimate reason.
8. Potential recipients must be willing to receive counseling. If the Benevolence Team determines that a personal problem is involved in the financial crisis, counseling may be recommended; for example, financial, stewardship, family of origin, personal or emotional, etc. The church can recommend a counselor to the recipient.
9. The Benevolence Team has the right to refuse financial assistance to anyone who, in their estimation, will have negative or irresponsible behavior reinforced by a financial gift.
10. If for any of the above reasons a person does not qualify for financial assistance, members of the Benevolence Team may guide them to other organizations for financial assistance and to other ministries to meet their spiritual or emotional needs.

**If you meet these guidelines, please [click here](#) to complete a Benevolence Request Form.**