

# **Benevolence Guidelines**

Shore Vineyard is a Bible based church who believes in giving to those in need. Benevolence is a temporary help during a time of crisis. To properly steward our benevolence fund, we have established guidelines to avoid abuse or dependence. Before filling out an application form (Located in the rack next to the front desk in our lobby), please read the following guidelines to see if your need falls within these parameters.

## **BRIDGE TO HOPE**

- Churches are not social service agencies, therefore before considering benevolence, please see a complete listing of State and Local Assistance listed on our website: <http://www.shorevineyard.com>.
- From our homepage, click on "Ministries," then "Bridge to Hope," and at the bottom, click on "Assistance Listing," which leads to the following information: Utilities and health insurance assistance, food pantries by area township, clothing pantries, soup kitchens, rides to Shore Vineyard, safe haven housing for women and children of abuse, Men's shelters, family shelters, youth housing, and drug rehab.

## **RESPONSE TIME**

- While benevolence needs are often emergency in nature, it may take up to 5 business days to process the request, thus the application should be made when the need is realized.
- Before disbursement, we will have an interview process. Some of the questions may seem personal; however, we consider this due diligence on the part of the church.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE**

- As funds are limited, priority for disbursement is for regular attendees who are in relational covenant with Shore Vineyard Church through serving and giving to the church body.

## **WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE**

- Due to our location, we frequently have transients visit the church office seeking assistance. Our goal is to treat these individuals with love and respect, help with food and resources through Bridge to Hope, but no monetary gift will be given.

## **NEEDS WE WILL NOT CONSIDER**

- School expenses
- Credit Card expenses
- Legal costs
- Housing for unmarried couples
- Late fees or irresponsible actions
- Business debts

## **NEEDS WE WILL CONSIDER**

- Primary lodging (mortgage/Rent)
- Utilities (electric/water/gas/sewer/trash)
- Necessary medical services
- Transportation

## **DISBURSEMENT GUIDELINES**

- The maximum benevolence assistance will not exceed \$200.00. In rare cases, the Pastors may consider a greater amount; however, this requires a Plan of Action and Accountability by the recipient.

## **DISBURSEMENT GUIDELINES CONTINUED**

- **Cash will never be given. Checks for disbursements will be made via money transfer to third party agencies such as utility companies, landlords, etc...**
- **A financial disbursement will only be considered after the person has used their personal resources and requested help from family and friends.**
- **It is not a loan. Therefore, it cannot be repaid in either money or labor.**
- **Benevolence will only be given once a year to an individual or a family unless the Pastors decide circumstances merit otherwise.**

## **FILLING OUT APPLICATION FORM**

- **The application form is located in the rack next to the front desk in our lobby. Please fill it out and place it into the envelope provided and deposit it into the collection basket on Sunday mornings.**