



# Renaissance Benevolence Policy FAQs

## 1. What needs does the Benevolence ministry meet?

The formal benevolence ministry seeks to meet the primary needs of a person or family involved with Renaissance church. These primary needs include things necessary for physical, emotional and spiritual survival:

- Basic provisions (housing, food, clothing, transportation, utilities)
- Employment-related needs (training, equipping, connecting)
- Medical expenses (if other options are unable to assist)
- Mental/emotional health needs (Counseling will include 3-6 sessions and a free initial assessment. If medical intervention is needed, referrals will be made.)

The benevolence ministry may be able to address other needs on a case-by-base basis.

## 2. Whom does Benevolence help?

We have the following priorities:

- Active church members (regularly attending, serving, in a small group, etc.)
- Church members and attendees, generally
- Families of church members (when the need is beyond the member's ability to help)
- Those involved or associated with a specific ministry of the church, a non-profit partner
- Neighborhood Residents with a relationship with a church member

For anyone else (neighborhood residents with no relationship, walk-ins, providential encounters, etc.), except in rare and urgent cases, we do not offer direct financial assistance, but may help connect that person to other community resources.

## 3. What are some other determining factors for formal financial assistance?

Benevolence starts at the community group (CG) level, before receiving financial assistance from the benevolence ministry. The benevolence ministry will also serve as a resource for CGs navigating how to best serve a person in need within their group.

### Requirements for financial assistance:

- The individual has a demonstrated need.
- The individual is unable to earn sufficient funds to support all his/her needs.
- The individual's family resources are not available or sufficient.
- The individual's community group resources are not available or sufficient.
- The individual has used his/her personal resources until they are relatively exhausted.
- The individual has demonstrated that he/she can make wise decisions about his resources.
- The individual/family is willing to work a plan with us, if needed.
- The person is (or is willing to be) in consistent Christian community for encouragement,

accountability and growth.

- Other assistance is unavailable or insufficient.

#### 4. How do individuals or families get help if they need it?

Renaissance encourages benevolence to start at the community group (CG) level. A person seeking assistance is encouraged to first share that need with someone in their CG, whether the leaders or another member, to see if it is a need that the CG will meet. If the request is being submitted to the Benevolence Team, requests may come directly from the requestor to the Benevolence Team or through a Community Group or other church member, by completing the [Benevolence Ministry Request form](#). If unable to complete the form, call or text the Renaissance Benevolence Team number, (412) 294-9529, and leave a message. Someone will respond to the form or message within 48 hours to set up a meeting by phone or in-person.

#### 5. What is the timeline for giving financial assistance?

Once the need has been put forward, the process may take up to two weeks before funding is given.

#### 6. Can I give money to the church for a specific person in need?

No, the church cannot accept benevolence checks on behalf of persons in need. However, a community group or individual can directly give money to people in need as they see fit.

#### 7. How will approved funding be given?

Checks or other payment will be provided **ONLY** to the final recipient of the finances (to the third party) not to the individual requester. \*Proof of expense documents will need to be given for record keeping purposes.

Gift cards may also be used to provide for needs.

Renaissance church and the Benevolence Team do not give cash to requestors, though individuals at the church may choose to do so on their own.

#### 8. Do we give a gift or loan?

We do not give loans. Benevolence is a gift of grace where repayment is not required.

#### 9. Do we make payments toward debts (credit card, bank loans, etc.)?

We will consider assistance with mortgage payments in instances where the need is situational and not a result of living beyond one's means. We do not pay credit card debt.

## 10. Is there a spending limit in formal benevolence?

Requests will generally be allowed with an annual total of \$500 per individual or \$1,000 per family, though exceptions may be made in extenuating circumstances. For those requests outside of the individuals listed above, they will generally be filled with an annual total of \$250 per individual or \$500 per family, though again exceptions may be made in extenuating circumstances.