



Ohio City Community Church of God Critical Need Guidelines

Overview

Because the Bible is clear that the Church is to help those in need, we have established these guidelines to assure that we carry out this ministry according to scripture. While it is true that God has called us to help those in need, it is also true that He has given us Biblical criteria to follow when it comes to the circumstances in which assistance is given. This is what God calls “Stewardship”. As good stewards, we are to be concerned about what we do with finances as well as how and why we do it. Therefore, assisting those with an immediate critical financial need is only the first step in helping overcome the financial challenges of life. In order to be good stewards in God's sight, we are obligated to help those we assist to better understand God's principles of financial management as set forth in scripture.

Critical Need Fund

The purpose of the Critical Need Fund is to provide financial assistance and guidance to families experiencing an extreme financial hardship. An extreme financial hardship is defined as a situation that has left an individual or family unable to pay for their basic living expenses. These expenses include but are not limited to: rent/mortgage payments for up to one month, essential utilities such as heating/cooling/water and food for the household in need.

Eligibility

Primary consideration for assistance will be given to members of Ohio City Community Church and members of the Ohio City community as defined by living within the 45874 zip code. Those outside the 45874 zip code may be helped as determined on a case by case basis. We will also try to find the appropriate agency to assist those living outside of the Ohio City zip code. Eligibility will be determined by the Critical Needs Committee.

Protocol

- Print and complete the Application if you are an OCCCG member or live in the 45874 Zip code.
- Print and complete the [Family Budget Worksheet](#) if you are an OCCCG member.

Note - Supporting documentation for the Family Budget Worksheet may be required.

- Bring the completed forms as well as a copy of the bill(s) for which you are requesting assistance to the church office. **Requests must be submitted at least 14 days before the bill is due.**
- If the Critical Needs committee approves your request, a check will be cut payable to the vendor within 5 business days.
- Upon receiving assistance, the committee will help you create a plan to manage your finances through either the [Crown Financial Class](#) or a personal budget advisor. **This step is mandatory to be considered for future assistance.**

Note: Financial assistance is limited to \$500 for OCCCCG members, payable to the vendor. Non-church members may request up to \$100. Families may apply once per year.

Ineligible Expenses

We do not consider the following expenses to be critical and therefore these are not eligible for assistance:

Cell phones, satellite or cable TV, internet, multiple cars/trucks, back taxes, unpaid mortgage balances, legal expenses, and luxury travel expenses. This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other expenses that the committee determines are not critical needs.

Blessed to be a Blessing

As we have been blessed by God, we desire to pass on that blessing to others. We hope that as you become more financially stable, you will also desire to bless others. For our church members, that should include the Biblical mandate of tithing. Through the church's tithes and offerings, we are able to continue this ministry of helping others in a time of need.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Scripture as the foundation for the "Critical Needs Guidelines"

- + Acts 4:32
- + 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- + 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16
- + 1 Timothy 5:3-4
- + 1 Timothy 5:8
- + Matthew 5:42
- + 1 Timothy 5: 9-10
- + 1 Timothy 5:16
- + Matthew 6:1-4