

Emergency Relief Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

Grace Church | Middleburg Heights

*"...your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.
Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and he will give you everything you need."*

Matthew 6.32, 33 NLT

What is the purpose of the ERF?

As a caring community, Grace Church maintains a way to assist attendees in extreme or urgent financial need by providing short-term material help, biblical guidance and spiritual support for long-term financial health. The goal is to help families experience the full measure of God's blessing and provision in every aspect of life. God enjoys blessing those who live to please him, obey his commands and seek him for every need.

When the Philippian believers honored God with their money he promised to provide for their needs.

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4.19

What kind of help is available?

In addition to bill payment, the church provides personal financial counseling upon request and classes on personal finance done God's way.

How is the ERF funded?

The fund is resourced solely by the donations of individuals. The Church feels an obligation to use these donations carefully, out of respect to the Lord and the donors.

Who can request help?

Members and regular attenders of the Church are eligible for assistance. Some people are referred to Love INC, a Christian agency with whom we partner.

What bills qualify for consideration?

- Rent/mortgage
- Utilities
- Basic Phone
- Grace Church Counselor
- Auto payment
- Auto repair
- Auto insurance
- Medical/Dental

What bills do not qualify for consideration?

- Credit cards
- Cable/Internet
- Childcare
- Insurance, other than auto
- Legal expenses
- Taxes

How is payment made?

The church pays bills directly to the vendor. We can make payments in only two ways: a church check [which can take up to 2 weeks to arrive] or a church-issued credit card. The applicant is responsible

to find out from the vendor/merchant if payment can be made in one of these approved ways, and include this information with the application.

How often can requests be submitted?

A family may submit a request once every twelve months.

How long will it take to receive assistance?

Online payments can be made within a day or two. Please allow fourteen business days from the day the application is received until a check is in the mail. Incomplete or unclear information delays the process.

Does the church make loans out of the ERF?

All money is given outright. The ERF does not set up payment plans. If a person decides to “return” the money in the future it will be used to help others.

What documents are required?

You must provide a copy of the current bill(s). If you are requesting assistance with rent, you must provide a copy of the lease. **Please note:** Checks for more than \$600 may require that you request a completed IRS W-9 form from the payee/vendor.

What are the steps to receiving assistance?

1. Read *Frequently Asked Questions* and *Pathway to Financial Health and Freedom*. Please keep these documents for future reference.
2. Complete the Application for Financial Assistance and include copies of bills/invoices/lease agreement. Bills must be in the name of the person who is requesting assistance. Failure to provide the required documents delays the process.
3. Email, mail or hand-deliver the completed application to:
Rev. Dennis Barta
Grace Church
7393 Pearl Road
Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130
dennis.barta@gracecma.org

The application will be reviewed and information verified. Additional questions may be asked for clarification purposes.

The application will then be presented to the ERF team for consideration. You will be informed of the decision. If the application is approved, payment will be made directly to the service provider. Please allow fourteen business days for a mailed check to arrive.

What else do you need to know?

The Church may approve assistance in any amount or deny assistance altogether. The Church may partner with Love INC for payment. The applicant is responsible to comply with all terms and conditions. Compliance may affect a decision on the present application and any future applications. The information you provide will be kept as confidential as possible.

Please keep this document for future reference.