

BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY

Guidelines for Assistance

Compassionate Care. Responsible Stewardship. Renewed Hope.

Destiny Church's Benevolence Ministry provides short-term assistance to individuals and families experiencing financial hardship or an unexpected crisis. Our goal is to demonstrate the love of Christ while stewarding the resources entrusted to our church with wisdom, compassion, and accountability.

Our Biblical Foundation

Scripture teaches that believers carry a responsibility to care for those in need. Jesus himself acknowledged that no ministry can eliminate poverty on earth (Matt. 26:11; Mark 14:7) — the need will always exceed the resources of any single church. Because of this, Destiny Church prayerfully and responsibly stewards the resources God has entrusted to us, guided by passages such as:

- “Do not shut your ears to the poor” (Prov. 21:13)
- “Be gracious to the poor” (Prov. 14:21)
- “Give to the poor” (Matt. 6:2–4)
- “Remember the poor” (Gal. 2:10)

These guidelines exist so that assistance is administered fairly, consistently, and in a way that honors both the applicant and the trust of our church family.

Who May Receive Assistance

Financial Assistance for Church Members

Financial benevolence is reserved for Destiny Church members who have been in good standing for at least 12 consecutive months, along with their immediate family (spouse and dependent children).

A member in good standing is someone who:

- Attends worship regularly, in person or online, at least twice monthly
- Gives consistently
- Serves periodically
- Participates in the life and ministry of Destiny Church

Every request is evaluated prayerfully and individually. Membership does not guarantee approval, and assistance is not automatic even for members in good standing.

Assistance for Non-Members

Destiny Church does not provide financial assistance to non-members. Non-members and regular attendees who have not yet become members may receive:

- Food assistance, subject to availability

- Referrals to community agencies and organizations equipped to address housing, utilities, transportation, medical, employment, and other needs

Our team will make reasonable efforts to help individuals identify appropriate community resources. However, a referral does not guarantee assistance from another organization.

Types of Assistance Considered

For eligible church members, assistance may be considered for urgent needs such as:

- Rent or mortgage
- Utilities
- Medical expenses
- Other qualifying emergencies

This list is not exhaustive. Assistance is intended to provide temporary relief, not ongoing financial support.

Requests We Generally Do Not Fund

Destiny Church generally does not provide financial assistance for:

- Services readily available through local support agencies (e.g., Red Cross, Salvation Army, Veterans Administration, Tarrant County Human Services)
- Legal fees, court costs, tickets, or fines
- Mental or psychological care
- Gambling debts
- Illegal activities
- Requests inconsistent with the church's biblical convictions
- Ongoing expenses without a reasonable plan for greater stability

Availability of Funds

Benevolence assistance is made available as church resources allow. Requests are considered on a first-come, first-served basis as funds are available. Destiny Church is not obligated to provide assistance once available funds for a given period have been exhausted.

How Members May Apply

1. Contact the Benevolence Ministry at benevolence@discoverdestiny.org, or download the Benevolence Application at www.discoverdestiny.org/benevolence.
2. Submit the fully completed application along with all requested documentation, including applicable bills or notices, income verification (such as recent pay stubs), and the completed monthly budget worksheet. Bills and documentation must be in the applicant's name or the name of an immediate family member.
3. Participate in an interview or follow-up conversation if requested.
4. Remain available to answer questions during the review process.

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Providing false, misleading, or intentionally incomplete information may result in denial.

If you are facing an imminent deadline — such as a shutoff or eviction date within the next 3 business days — please note this clearly on your application. Our team will make reasonable efforts to expedite review, subject to fund availability. However, Destiny Church cannot guarantee assistance before a deadline, and applicants should continue pursuing other available resources while their request is under review.

What to Expect

- Requests are reviewed confidentially and on a case-by-case basis.
- Applicants are generally notified of a decision within three (3) business days after a complete application is received, pending their availability for any requested interview or follow-up.
- Approved payments are made directly to the appropriate service provider or creditor — not to the applicant.
- Assistance depends upon eligibility, the nature of the need, available resources, and ministry discretion.
- Submission of an application does not guarantee approval or payment.
- All financial and personal information submitted is kept confidential and is only accessible to those directly involved in reviewing the request.

If Your Request Is Not Approved

If an application is not approved, you will be notified in writing and provided with referral information for local charities and financial assistance agencies.

If you disagree with a decision, you may submit a written request for reconsideration to the Senior Pastor's Office within ten (10) business days of notification. The Senior Pastor or a designee will review the request and respond within five (5) business days. This decision is final.

Our Commitment

Benevolence is about more than providing financial help. We seek to offer compassionate care, biblical guidance, practical support, and pathways toward greater stability. Every person who contacts Destiny Church will be treated with dignity, respect, confidentiality, and grace.

Ready to apply, or have questions about your eligibility?

Members: Apply for Benevolence Assistance at www.discoverdestiny.org/benevolence.

Non-Members: Request Food Assistance or Community Referrals at the same link.

Email benevolence@discoverdestiny.org