

Shepherd's Fund Guidelines

1. Shepherd's Fund is for those members and regular attendees of Harvest Baptist Church who are experiencing a period of unemployment or underemployment or death within the family with accompanying loss of income and are actively seeking new employment. The goal of the fund is to help pay overdue bills or provide groceries or small medical or transportation needs. The Fund is not to take the place of good budgeting and savings prior to job loss.
2. Each application to the Shepherd's Fund can be made up to \$300.00. Up to \$500.00 may be approved with further consideration and approval from the committee overseeing the Fund.
3. No cash money or church check from the Fund may be paid directly to the individual or family. Distribution from the Fund must be made to the creditor (overdue bill or medical/transportation need) or placed on a grocery store gift card (food or other essential need). Otherwise, committee may use Fund to purchase food items directly for applicant.
4. Sixty-days must pass between applications to the Fund by the same individual or family.
5. The same individual or family may apply three times within a within a 12-month period.
6. At the time of the 2nd application to the Fund by the same individual or family within a 12-month period, then that individual, family, or head of household for the family must agree to undertake and complete financial counseling within the church.
7. Continual applications to the Fund after completing financial counseling require review by the committee overseeing the Fund and possible disqualification from further applications.
8. The deacon board will approve the application form to be used. Accompanying documentation must be provided as to bills and other needs being applied for relief. The deacon board has the authority to decline an application.