

Love Columbia Benevolence Fund Step-by-Step Process for Small Groups

If you meet someone in need, here's what you should consider: If someone's needs are small and/or one time, and you feel like your small group can handle it, feel free to move ahead helping that person on your own.* If you feel the need is too big or is ongoing, please follow the steps below and the Care Team will work with your small group.

1. Complete the one-page initial assessment form with the person requesting the assistance.
2. Hand out the community resource list, if appropriate.
3. Turn in the intake form to the LC Benevolence Care Team (via email, over the phone, etc)
4. The LC Benevolence Care Team will partner** with your SG to decide whether God is calling your SG to walk with the person requesting the assistance and whether the request meets the criteria for assistance according to the LC Benevolence Care Team Guidelines.

*Please note that you must receive Love Columbia Benevolence Care Team and/or Riverside Elder Board approval before spending money that you intend to reimburse from this fund.

** This partnership looks like a Care Team member doing the "heavy lifting" of meeting to determine next steps through an action plan during the first two weeks following the request, but it is best if a member of your SG can be a part of that process. The goal is that your Small Group would be the long-term community and point of contact for the individual to keep walking out their plan in community. The LC Benevolence Care Team is NOT a group of "professionals" that do the work for Riverside and/or your Small Group. It IS a group of called individuals who have committed to give more time on the front end to learn people's stories, help develop a plan and pass of the person to a sustainable long-term community of believers, whether that be Riverside, a person's home church or another church.

"GET MOVING!. ...Quadruple your efforts to help the poor and do so immediately. Just consider doing things differently than you have in the past."

--Brian Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*