

CHRIST JAMAICA - RELIEF SUPPORT

CRITERIA FOR RELIEF SELECTION

This guide is intended to inform desired applicants of the eligibility requirements for relief grant. The principles outlined are simple guidelines and are subject to the relief fund's administration's final decision.

ELEGIBILITY CRITERIA

The general intent of the **Christ Jamaica – Relief Support** is to make grants and in special cases loans to

1. *Congregations* of the churches of Christ in Jamaica who suffer financial hardship as a result of natural or man-made disaster, such as a flood, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, landslide, fire, drought, vandalism or civil disturbance*.
2. *Ministers* of the churches of Christ in Jamaica who suffer financial hardship as a result of their local congregation being unable to cover certain expenses as it relates to maintaining the presence of an Assembly in the community.

* Congregational Assistance

The types of disasters the Relief Fund may help relieve are not limited to those listed above. In special circumstances a congregation may have members (hereafter referred as **victims**) who are affected by a disaster in which assistance from immediate Family members, government aid or local relief groups were not obtained. In such cases the congregation may apply for assistance for a member for the relief fund's administrators to review.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The amount of assistance provided will be based on the objective financial and other immediate and objective needs of the relief cases and will be in the nature of emergency assistance to pay for items or services that are not reimbursable through insurance. The assistance provided from the Fund is not intended to indemnify individuals or congregation against all loss or losses.

The Fund may assist congregation, victims or ministers by paying for reasonable expenses they have incurred or anticipate to incur as a result of a disaster, including, but not limited to:

- Food, shelter, clothing, safety items, and other immediate necessities

- Medical expenses not covered by insurance
- Temporary housing not covered by insurance
- Debris removal from primary residence not covered by insurance
- Repairs to primary residence not covered by insurance
- Relocation expenses
- Transportation or evacuation expenses
- Replacement of medical equipment, vehicles, or other personal property not covered by insurance
- Temporary child or elder care
- Counseling

The Fund may assist a minister for a period of time by paying for reasonable expenses they have incurred or anticipate to incur as a result of his local congregation financial instability, including, but not limited to:

- Travel expenses
- Part-time salary

Ministers who are supported by the fund, may have periodical evaluations done to assess and make recommendations as to how the congregation can become financially stable and support their financial obligations.

It is very understandable that the fund may not always be able to cover the full expenses required. Therefore, when seeking assistance, it would be a good sign to see the congregation, ministers and victims where possible demonstrate reasonable effort in raising part of the proceeds for assistance.

Application for Fund Procedure

No entity will receive assistance from the Fund without applying for such assistance by completing the Christ Jamaica – Relief Application Forms.

Applications for disaster relief should be submitted within 30 days from the date of the disaster, although the fund’s administrators may consider applications filed after the 30-day period.

Upon receipt of the completed application, and an approved review by the fund’s administrators that an event has occurred that warrants relief pursuant to these guidelines and after verification of the victim’s need by field Officers, the Christ Jamaica - Relief Fund will disburse the grant in the most direct and expeditious manner, taking into account the instructions of the victim/personnel involved.

HANDLING SPECIAL CASES AND TROUBLESHOOTING

There will inevitably be victims who make compelling cases for more than the maximum amount allowed by the fund or who need financial assistance for purposes not allowed by the fund. It is not feasible to identify all the possible “special cases” that will emerge during a crisis. It is possible, however, to work with local field officers to check these cases against the overall principles of the fund and to

consider the precedent each case would set if funded. It is also possible to include a clause in the eligibility criteria that recommends guidelines but allows local ministers to make alternate arrangements if necessary.