

HelpWest Employee Benevolence Program

Guidelines

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the University of West Georgia (UWG), the HelpWest Employee Benevolence Program subcommittee of the UWG Barrier Team is committed to a self-governed effort to provide appropriate relief to eligible employees of the University who are facing financial hardship. This charitable enterprise from which such relief will be drawn shall be known as the "HelpWest Employee Benevolence Program".

ARTICLE II. GOVERNANCE

The HelpWest Employee Benevolence Program shall be governed by the HelpWest Employee Benevolence Program subcommittee of the UWG Barrier Team in compliance with the policies and procedures of the University, University of West Georgia Foundation, and the University System of Georgia.

The subcommittee will be made up of the Ombuds Office, a representative from each University division, and a representative from the Faculty Senate and Staff Advisory Council.

ARTICLE III. APPLICATION PROCESS

Any request for aid from the HelpWest Employee Benevolence Program shall be made by submitting an application to the Ombuds Office. This application shall be accessible through the Ombuds Office website or by contacting the Ombuds Office directly.

- The Ombuds Office will keep identifying information related to requests confidential, except as required by other University policies and procedures or by law.
- The HelpWest Employee Benevolence Program subcommittee shall approve or deny requests according to the criteria noted in the following section, and to the extent that funds are available.
- Decisions of the subcommittee are final.
- The person requesting assistance will be notified of the subcommittee's decision by the Ombuds Office within two business days.
- Upon approval of the request for assistance, funds shall be made payable directly to the beneficiary.
- Supporting documentation may be requested to determine approval of the request.

ARTICLE IV. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The HelpWest Employee Benevolence Program subcommittee evaluates employee requests and makes decisions regarding disbursement of funds according to the following criteria:

- Requestor must be a full-time or part-time appointed employee of the University of West Georgia.
- Requestor's need for financial assistance must be directly attributed to or caused by undue hardship or crisis.

ARTICLE V. AWARDS

Awards shall not exceed \$500 per recipient per twelve-month period except in unusual circumstances as approved by the Committee.

ARTICLE VI. NON-DISCRIMINATION

The HelpWest Benevolence Program committee adheres to the non-discrimination policy of the University of West Georgia.