

# THE ASSISTED HOME PROGRAM

## *Application*

Brothers of our Masonic Fraternity and their wives or widows residing in Nova Scotia who may be experiencing financial difficulty in continuing to remain in their own homes may, if qualified, apply for assistance from the Assisted Home



Program.

Some Masonic Brethren and their wives, or their widows, especially those on small or fixed incomes, may be experiencing difficulty as their income fails to keep up with rising costs. In cases of real need the Assisted Home Program may be able to help.

Application for benevolent assistance may be made to the Chairman of the Foundation's Benevolence Committee using the form Application for Benevolent Assistance, appendix "A", available from lodge secretaries.

Urgent temporary financial assistance not exceeding \$500.00, when warranted, may be requested by applying to the Committee. Requests of this nature should be made through the Grand Lodge Secretary who acts as the Secretary of the Foundation's Benevolence Committee. Although a written application is not mandatory when initially applying, follow up justification will be required for file and audit purposes or to request further funding in addition to that granted in an emergency.

## *Terms Of Reference*

1) **Objective:** The objective of the program is to help Masons and their immediate family members:

A. To maintain, or improve their self sufficiency and quality of life, by assisting them to remain independent and healthy in their own homes, thus delaying and where possible, preventing institutionalization.

B. When housed in a Long Term Care Facility, to ensure that items deemed necessary to promoting self sufficiency and independence in this environment will be available, if not provided through health insurance, or any governmental or like agency.

**2) Scope:**

A. Within the limits of funds available, the program will make available to qualified applicants, financial assistance to defray living expenses vital to having the applicant attain the maximum level of self sufficiency possible where such expenses exceed their financial resources.

B. Financial assistance shall be primarily directed toward having the applicant continue to live in his/her own home.

**3) Types of assistance include:**

A. Funding for repairs and renovations to the home.

B. Funding the purchase of special equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, over bed tables and other necessary items not covered by medical insurance. When funding is provided for such special equipment it shall be conditional on an undertaking to return the equipment to the sponsoring Lodge, when it is no longer required by the applicant. The sponsoring Lodge will advise the Committee that the equipment has been returned and await instructions from the Committee on the disposition of the equipment.

C. Funding for the payment of limited household assistance to cook, clean and provide transportation to appointments, etc. but not to include professional nursing care.

**4) When Funding is provided for Household Assistance:**

A. Individuals providing assistance in the home will be engaged by the applicant, with the approval of the family members involved, but shall not themselves be a family member.

B. Funds for household assistance will be based upon a rate of pay which is comparable to that paid for like service by The Department of Veterans Affairs.

C. Funds for household assistance will not exceed 20 hours per week, however, applications for a greater number of hours will be considered in exceptional circumstances.

D. Funds for household assistance may be granted for a period not to exceed six months. Requests for continuance of funding beyond six months will require a separate application for each six month period.

#### **5) Guidelines for Preparing Applications for Benevolent Assistance:**

A. Requests for benevolent assistance shall be submitted on the prescribed forms by the Lodge of which the applicant is a member. In the case of widows, it shall be submitted by the Lodge of which their husband was a member. In the case where the applicant resides in Nova Scotia but is a member of a Lodge outside of this jurisdiction, the application will be submitted by the Lodge nearest the applicant's place of residence.

B. When receiving a request for assistance the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and the Secretary of the Lodge will consult with the applicant and assist with the preparation of the application, ensuring that the application is fully completed, and that the applicant fully understands the objectives of the program.

C. The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Secretary of the Lodge will:

a) Ensure that the applicant understands that any assistance granted may have some effect on his/her existing supplements and assist the applicant to determine the possible effect before proceeding.

b) Ensure that the application for benevolent assistance meets the objective of the program.

c) Ensure that the requested assistance cannot be secured from MSI, D. V. A. or some like authority.

d) Ensure that the application and the information contained therein will be treated as Private and Confidential; applications shall not be discussed in open Lodge or treated as Lodge business. In this respect the Lodge secretary will keep a separate file for the recording and processing of applications.

Brother Masons and their wives or widows who wish to enquire about or discuss the possibility of receiving assistance should contact a Masonic Lodge Secretary, who will arrange for a confidential discussion and if found appropriate will assist with making an application to the Foundation's Benevolence Committee.

Any discussion and ensuing application will remain completely confidential and will not be made known to anyone, including Lodge members. Similarly, the Committee's review of requests and their files are known only to the Committee members.

The Application For Benevolent Assistance Form and a sample letter of program information which may be sent to Lodge members and widows are included in this booklet as appendices "A" and "B". The Terms of Reference, Application Form and sample letter may also be read, downloaded and printed from the Grand Lodge Web Site Members' Area Downloads Page:

<http://www.grandlodgens.org/>

