

Atlanta Friends Meeting Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders

Have you ever had a financial emergency and wondered if the Meeting could help? Did you know that among its other duties, the Care & Counsel Committee administers an assistance fund for members and attenders for this purpose? The Meeting is a community of Worship and Spirit. In addition, Quakers have a long tradition of attending to the needs of Friends in keeping with our testimonies of community and equality. Some Atlanta Friends Meeting members and attenders occasionally have an acute need for financial assistance and turn to the Meeting. The purpose of the Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders is to provide these members and attenders with short-term, emergency help. Examples might be assistance with a utility bill until their first paycheck arrives, help paying for special tools or job training, paying for a one-month MARTA card to assist them in their job search, or help with a bill or living expense during a medical emergency. Assistance from the Meeting may take the form of a loan, grant, or help with finding other resources for meeting financial needs. Applicants should be members or regular attenders with the Meeting for a minimum of 6 months and participate in the life of the Meeting through worship and other activities such as First Day School and volunteering, as they are able. At the discretion of the Care & Counsel Committee, assistance may be offered to people in the wider local Friends community, for example, people who have previously attended AFM regularly or are attending a worship group which is under the care of the Meeting.

If you are in need of temporary financial help, you can contact the clerk of the Care & Counsel Committee or designated point person for the Care and Counsel Committee. Care & Counsel clerk is listed in the newsletter and members of Care & Counsel are announced at rise of meeting for worship. You can also send an email to afm.care.counsel@gmail.com To apply for financial assistance, you can fill out a request form. Then the Clerk of Care and Counsel and/or a group assigned by Care and Counsel will meet with you to consider the request. In an emergency situation, the Clerk of C&CC shall contact one or two other members to seek immediate approval for funding.

Care and Counsel Committee members are glad to help you when you have a personal concern, whether about an important decision, a life event, an illness, or a financial need. Feel free to talk with one of us after meeting for worship or email the C & C clerk.