

# Church Welfare Resources

## For Use in the United States and Canada

---

This is a supplement to *Providing in the Lord's Way: A Leader's Guide to Welfare* (36922) and is to be used by priesthood and Relief Society leaders who assist in caring for the poor and the needy. It outlines services available in bishops' storehouses, home storage centers, and canneries and processing facilities and through Deseret Industries, LDS Employment Resource Services, and LDS Family Services.

For questions that are not answered in *Providing in the Lord's Way*, the *Church Handbook of Instructions*, or this supplement, contact your regional welfare specialist.

In this supplement, references to wards and stakes also apply to branches and districts.

---

### Guidelines for Providing Welfare Assistance

In your efforts to care for the needy, remember the following guidelines:

- Help members with their temporary needs as they strive to become self-reliant.
- Provide goods and services necessary to sustain life, not to maintain an affluent lifestyle.
- Whenever possible, provide basic commodities rather than give money or pay bills.
- Give those who receive assistance opportunities to work as they are able.
- Administer fast-offering assistance according to Church policy.

For more detailed information, see *Providing in the Lord's Way* and "Spiritual and Temporal Welfare," section 8 of the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders* (35708 and 35209). All priesthood and Relief Society leaders should be familiar with this information. Stake presidents and bishops should also be familiar with the welfare principles in the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 1*.

---

### Using the Services of Church Welfare Operations

#### Ordering Commodities and Services

Follow this procedure when ordering commodities and services:

1. Consult with the person or family, using the form titled Needs and Resources Analysis—

Self-Reliance Plan (32290). This form helps bishops determine what a family needs, what resources are available, and what amount of Church assistance should be provided. The bishop may ask the ward Relief Society president to visit the individual or family to assess needs and complete the form (see *Providing in the Lord's Way*, 27–28).

2. Complete one of the following order forms. The Relief Society president may prepare the form for the bishop's review and signature.
  - Bishop's Order for Commodities—Food and Supplies (33585 in the United States and 36996 in Canada). Bishops and Relief Society presidents use this form to order food, supplies, and temple garments for members in need.
  - Bishop's Order for Commodities—Clothing and Household Goods (31422). Bishops and Relief Society presidents use this form to order clothing, furniture, and other household needs through Deseret Industries.
  - Bishop's Authorization for Services—Employment, Rehabilitation, and Family Services (31480). Bishops use this form to order services through LDS Employment Resource Services, Deseret Industries, and LDS Family Services.
3. Obtain the bishop's signature on the order form. If the bishop is absent, he may authorize a counselor to sign the form. Bishops are not to sign blank forms to be filled in later.
4. Keep a copy of the form to verify that the commodities and services ordered are provided.
5. Have the recipient present the order form at the appropriate welfare operation.

#### Types of Welfare Operations

Each of the following sections describes a welfare operation and provides instructions for using its services. To find the locations of welfare operations, visit [www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org).

Note: All Church welfare operations provide opportunities for those receiving aid to work as volunteers. Bishops may contact welfare operations to obtain information about work opportunities.

#### Bishops' Storehouses

Bishops' storehouses provide commodities for the needy as requested by bishops. To order commodities, bishops use the form titled Bishop's Order for

Commodities—Food and Supplies (see page 1). An order should meet the needs of the welfare recipient for about two weeks.

Managers of bishops' storehouses may call bishops to confirm large or unusual orders and to coordinate or report on labor donated by welfare recipients and others.

If a storehouse is not available or if a person has special dietary needs not provided for in the storehouse, bishops may use fast-offering funds to buy needed commodities from local merchants.

### Home Storage Centers

Home storage centers help members package basic, life-sustaining foods, such as grains and legumes. Packaging is done according to the center's established procedures and government regulations.

Only those who participate in the home storage center's activities may purchase each center's packaged commodities. They must pay for the commodities before taking them from the home storage center.

To obtain information on schedules, product availability, and costs, contact local storage centers.

### Canneries and Processing Facilities

Canneries and other processing facilities prepare commodities for bishops' storehouses. In some locations, individuals may use the facilities to process, package, and purchase basic foods such as meats, vegetables, and fruits.

Stakes and wards may receive assignments to support production in these facilities. Those working at the facilities should cooperate fully with supervisory personnel and follow established procedures to ensure product safety, quality, and shelf life.

To obtain information on schedules, product availability, costs, and volunteer work, contact local canneries or processing facilities.

### Deseret Industries

Deseret Industries is a nonprofit organization built on principles of work, thrift, giving, and sharing. Deseret Industries provides:

- Work, training, and job placement for individuals who are currently unemployable, who need to improve their work skills, or who are receiving Church welfare assistance.
- Clothing and household goods for bishops to use in caring for the needy.

- Quality recycled or refurbished goods to the public at low cost.
- Opportunities for Church members to give meaningful service and to donate goods to help people around the world.

Bishops request work, training, and job placement through Deseret Industries for individuals by completing the form titled Bishop's Authorization for Services—Employment, Rehabilitation, and Family Services (see page 1).

To order clothing and household items from Deseret Industries, bishops use the form titled Bishop's Order for Commodities—Clothing and Household Goods (see page 1).

Some Deseret Industries stores have service areas, called Humanitarian Service rooms, where volunteer groups and individuals prepare items to assist the needy worldwide. To obtain information on Humanitarian Service rooms, contact local Deseret Industries stores.

Church leaders can support the activities of Deseret Industries by:

- Encouraging members to donate new or gently used merchandise to Deseret Industries, either on their own or as part of ward or stake Deseret Industries drives.
- Encouraging members to give service at Deseret Industries stores.
- Calling Church-service missionaries to assist with vocational training and job placement.

### LDS Employment Resource Services

LDS Employment Resource Services offers help for individuals and for Church leaders and employment specialists. The organization has established employment resource centers worldwide to help individuals in the following areas:

- Employment. Staff members at employment resource centers direct individuals to information about job opportunities. Individuals who are unemployed or seeking better employment can learn job-search skills and receive ongoing support as they attend the Career Workshop or participate in the Professional Placement Program.
- Education. Staff members inform individuals about education and training opportunities that will help them develop marketable skills. They also help individuals find information about scholarships and loans.
- Self-employment. Individuals who want to start or strengthen a small business can attend the

Self-Employment Workshop. Guided by staff members, they can learn of local resources that can help them reach their self-employment goals.

Staff members in LDS Employment Resource Services partner with ward and stake employment specialists, helping them fulfill their responsibilities. They teach specialists how to guide and encourage people who are seeking employment. They also share information about job opportunities, employment trends, employers, schools, skill training, financial aid, and small-business training and loans.

Ward and stake employment specialists may teach the Career Workshop (35163). They may also help individuals assess their employment, education, and self-employment needs by completing the Career Assessment and Plan form (31485).

The form titled Bishop's Authorization for Services—Employment, Rehabilitation, and Family Services is not required but may be used to refer members to Church employment resource centers (see page 1).

For additional help, contact a local employment resource center or review the employment information on [www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org).

#### LDS Family Services

LDS Family Services is a private, nonprofit organization that provides the following family-related services to Church members according to gospel principles:

- Adoption and foster-care services.
- Services for unwed parents—counseling, assistance with medical care and temporary housing, and placement of children for adoption.
- Counseling for individuals, married couples, and families and referrals to appropriate social services agencies or practitioners in the community.
- Consultation for priesthood and Relief Society leaders who are helping individuals and families with social and emotional needs.

Most members are required to pay a fee when they receive assistance from LDS Family Services. Bishops may use fast-offering funds to assist members who are unable to make these payments. Adoptive couples are required to pay for adoption services. However, LDS Family Services does not charge a fee for help they give to unwed parents or for consultation with Church leaders who are assisting members in their wards or stakes.

The stake president may assign a member of the stake presidency or a high councilor to act as a liaison to LDS Family Services. In addition, the stake president may assign a member of the stake Relief Society presidency as a coordinator for LDS Family Services.

The form titled Bishop's Authorization for Services—Employment, Rehabilitation, and Family Services is not required but may be used to refer members to LDS Family Services (see page 1).

For information on available services, contact a local office or visit [www.ldsfamilyservices.org](http://www.ldsfamilyservices.org).