

GLOBAL FAMILY ALLIANCE
FINANCIAL AID POLICY
2008

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework of the financial aid process, identify qualifications for financial aid, and clarify how decisions are made for financial aid applications.

BACKGROUND

Global Family Alliance attempts to avoid situations in our financial requirements that prevent applicants from hosting. In this spirit, we offer financial aid awards to reduce the financial commitment for those host families. A financial aid award is a decrease in the hosting fee for a given family in a given year.

GFA does not have the ability to offer unlimited financial aid awards to all potential host families. The Board of Directors does believe that God provides, yet we recognize our responsibility to be good steward of His provisions. Therefore, it is the duty of the Board of GFA to consider our stewardship of available funds and fairness to applying families in awarding financial aid.

PROCESS

The financial aid process will operate under the following structure:

1. An application for financial aid must be filled out and submitted to the GFA Treasurer. The application is available on our website or a hard copy may be requested from the Treasurer.
2. Upon receipt of the financial aid application, the Treasurer will form a family-specific financial aid committee. This committee shall consist of at least three Board members, to include the Treasurer and a Board member who has knowledge of the applying family's situation. An Area Coordinator may also serve on this committee.
3. The committee will review the application considering the family's specifics and particulars of the "financial aid qualification" section in this document.
4. Within 14 days of the Treasurer's receipt of the application, the committee will convene, decide, and notify the family of the decision.

FINANCIAL AID QUALIFICATION AND DETERMINATION

One primary factor in qualification for financial aid is the applying family's relationship to GFA. For purposes of this qualification, we identify each family as one of the following:

- Board member
- Returning host family
- New host family
- Full-time pastor or missionary

Board Member

As a Board, we maintain that we must be “beyond reproach”, both in fact and in appearance. For this reason, Board Members are excluded from receiving financial aid awards except under extreme circumstances, which must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. While this may create an environment which is unfair to the Board members who also want to host, it is essential to maintaining a status of “beyond reproach”.

Returning Host Family

As a Board, we recognize that hosting fees are substantial to most families. However, we believe that under most circumstances, a returning host family has sufficient time between application and arrival to save money and fundraise to meet the hosting fee. Therefore, returning host families do not qualify for financial aid except under extenuating circumstances, which may include, but are not limited to:

- Agreeing to host a child previously invited by a family that backed out.
- Experiencing an unexpected change in household income very near the beginning of the hosting season.
- Experiencing an unexpected change in household expenses very near the beginning of the hosting season.
- Very actively and frequently assisting with fundraising activities and other GFA activities and requesting a financial aid award of not more than 25% of the total hosting fee

New Host Family

Unlike returning host families, new host families will generally have less time to save money and fundraise enough to cover the entire hosting fee. The Board recognizes that this situation is usually a result the timing of our recruiting process, which is beyond control of a new host family. Therefore, new host families will not be automatically excluded from financial aid.

Although we actively seek to have many new host families each year, it is not financially feasible for GFA to provide financial aid to all new host families. While we are able to help several new host families each year through financial aid, stewardship requires that we recruit new host families who can independently pay or fundraise the hosting fee. Some families who cannot meet the hosting fee and whom we are unable to assist with financial aid may be wise to wait a year to host and begin fundraising early.

Financial aid awards to new host families will be limited to one-half of the balance that is not being paid directly by the host family.

Example: **New host family A** submits an application for financial aid. Of the \$1450 hosting fee, they plan to pay \$800 themselves and expect to fundraise \$400 from friends, family, and other sources. Their request is for \$250 in financial aid. The full amount requested will be considered.

New host family B submits an application, plans to pay \$800 themselves, expects to fundraise \$100, and requests \$550. GFA would normally only consider up to \$225 ($\$1450 - \$900 = \550; $\$550 \times 50\% = \225).

Factors to be considered for financial aid awards to new host families include, but are not limited to:

- Household income
- Household expense

- Timing of their recruitment
- Participation in group and individual fundraising activities
- Willingness to help in GFA events
- Extenuating circumstances

Full-Time Pastors and Missionaries

The purpose of Global Family Alliance is to do God's work. We believe that we are, among other things, a missionary organization in that we bring the mission to our host families. We recognize that there are potential host families who are called to do God's work full-time. The Board of GFA believes it is important to include these people as host families. However, we recognize that families of pastors and missionaries have committed most of their time and resources to doing His work in other areas. As such, we will award financial aid, including full awards, for full-time pastors and missionaries who hosts but are unable to pay some portion or even the entire hosting fee.