

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief Financial Policy

Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief (TBDR) is a volunteer-based ministry of Tennessee Baptist Mission Board (TBMB) that brings help, hope, and healing and the love of Jesus Christ to individuals and families whose lives are disrupted by disaster both large and small. TBDR units also use their equipment and training to share the love of Jesus Christ in their local communities by responding to opportunities as appropriate.

Funding Sources

Gift Acceptance Policy: This policy is an extension of the TBMB Gift Acceptance policy and is subject to all processes and guidelines included in that document.

Designated Gifts: Every response is dependent upon gifts designated for Disaster Relief. There are no funds budgeted for direct relief efforts. While gifts designated to Disaster Relief are accepted at any time, special accounts within the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) are created to track gifts and expenses for significant responses. Consistent with the Financial Plan of the Tennessee Baptist Convention all designated gifts for Disaster Relief will be used as instructed by the donor to the greatest extent possible.

Volunteers: TBDR volunteers pay for their own credentials, clothing, and training. They are also responsible for the expense of travelling to a disaster site, lodging and meals on site, and other personal expenses. However, lodging and meals are often provided by local churches, other partners, or Disaster Relief personnel on site. Volunteer expenses may be supplemented from the DRF when funds are available.

Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions: Tennessee Baptists giving sacrificially through the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions provide the base budget for administration of the ministry, including some equipment, maintenance of the Missions Mobilization Center, and other operating expenses. The Golden Offering also provides compensation for two full-time TBMB staff (Disaster Relief Specialist and an Assistant).

Cooperative Program: Tennessee Baptist churches giving faithfully through the Cooperative Program provide additional administrative guidance, communications, and promotional expenses.

Spending Guidelines

Disaster Where There is No Direct Response by TBDR: Funds will be forwarded with designation to the appropriate state convention, SBC agency, or churches responding to the disaster.

Disaster Where TBMB is responding with personnel and/or equipment: TBDR will use available funds from the DRF and the specific disaster relief account to respond to the needs of the disaster. These funds will be used in the following ways:

1. Victim relief providing cash payments to victims, groceries, repair materials or services, clothing or physical materials, or other services provided directly to individual victims of disasters.
2. Victim relief in the form of housing and transportation based on the nature of the disaster and availability of funds.
3. Repair or replacement of equipment damaged or consumed during response.
4. Transportation of equipment or personnel to disaster site. Transportation costs may include provision for recovering costs of TBDR vehicle purchase, insurance, maintenance, tires, etc.
5. Purchase of food for cooking by disaster unit.
6. Purchase of supplies or equipment consumed during response.
7. Repair or rebuilding of homes and churches damaged or destroyed by disaster.
8. Engagement of personnel to coordinate volunteers and/or project management.
9. When appropriate, funds may be sent to another state convention, SBC agency, or churches to assist in response.
10. Funds received designated for a specific disaster in excess of funds needed for the response and funds designated for general disaster relief will be placed in the General DRF for use in future disasters, purchase and replacement of disaster equipment, special training for volunteer leadership, and other needs related to the Disaster Relief ministry.