



# Realtors® Care Foundation Policy Procedures and Guidelines

## PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

The Foundation has been established to offer financial assistance to homeowners in Southwest Florida who have been victims of hurricanes, other natural disasters, and financial hardships that need assistance with their homes.

## DEFINITIONS

“Homeowner(s)” are defined as the legal owners of the property as indicated on a deed, court order or other document evidencing title and recognized by the county’s Property Appraiser.

“Applicant” is the person(s) who are the homeowner(s) or someone acting on the homeowner(s) behalf

“Southwest Florida” is defined as Lee and Hendry County Florida.

“Natural Disasters” are defined as brush/wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, lightening, hail, wind, hurricanes, and severe storms.

“Financial Hardships” are the inability to pay for repair(s) or maintenance of a home because of factors beyond the control of the Homeowner. Financial hardships includes natural disasters as well as personal incidents such as violent crime, accident, or death that causes financial hardship for the homeowner(s).

“Property” is defined as the home for which the requested assistance will be utilized and must be the homeowner(s) primary residence.

“Foundation Board” or “Board” is defined as the Realtors® Care Foundation of Southwest Florida.

## APPLICATION AND FUNDING PROCESS

An application for assistance must be completed by the person(s) owning the property or someone acting on the owner(s) behalf. The completed application, including all supporting documentation, will be reviewed by the Board and the request responded to within 30 days. The review process will commence once all supporting documentation has been received.

The Board has the discretion to determine the level of funding based on their review of the application and documentation and may award up to the amount of \$1,500.00 (one thousand five hundred dollars)

per incident. All information will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shared outside of the Board or staff liaison who assists in coordination of payment benefits.

An applicant may make a subsequent request(s) for assistance for unrelated incident(s). The Board has the discretion to determine whether additional assistance will be provided.

### **DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

Foundation monies cannot be disbursed directly to the applicant, but are used to pay, on their behalf, expenses incurred, after submission of proper documentation of the expected cost of the repairs or maintenance, or reimbursement of the actual costs. Funding is not guaranteed and may be limited.

### **FUNDING SOURCES**

Funding for The Foundation is derived through fundraisers and as an Association budget line item. Funding is not guaranteed and may be limited in any given year.

### **COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY**

The Foundation has always, and continues to be, an equal access and equal opportunity corporation. The Foundation will not discriminate against any person or persons based on his or her race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, or sexual orientation.

