

LIGHT OF GRIEF

HELD IN CARE

Program Guidelines

Compassionate Support for Life's Hardest Moments

Removing barriers to healing through practical support, trusted guidance, healing access, and community care.

Program Purpose

Held in Care is Light of Grief's compassionate support initiative designed to remove barriers to healing for individuals and families navigating grief, loss, illness, or life's major transitions.

Our purpose is to provide compassionate guidance, practical support, healing access, and trusted resource navigation so individuals and families do not have to navigate life's hardest moments alone.

Guiding Principles

Compassion	Every request represents a person, not a case.
Dignity	Support is offered with respect and without judgment.
Stewardship	Resources are managed thoughtfully and responsibly.
Equity	Every request is reviewed fairly while recognizing individual circumstances.
Community	Connection is part of the healing process.
Hope	Every interaction should help move someone toward stability, connection, and healing.

How Held in Care Can Help

Care Navigation — Helping individuals understand what comes next through trusted referrals, community resources, and personalized guidance.

Healing Access — Providing scholarships and financial assistance that make healing experiences and educational opportunities more accessible.

Practical Assistance — Offering support for urgent needs that may create barriers to healing, such as transportation, meals, temporary lodging, funeral expenses, or other approved assistance.

Health & Recovery — Supporting individuals and families navigating illness, recovery, infertility, pregnancy loss, caregiving, or other health-related life transitions.

Community Care — Providing care packages, volunteer support, resource connections, and ongoing community so no one has to walk alone.

Who Can Apply

Held in Care serves Orange County individuals and families navigating grief in all its forms, including:

- Loss of a loved one
- Serious illness
- Pregnancy or infant loss
- Infertility
- Divorce or separation
- Caregiving
- Job loss
- Financial hardship related to a major life event
- Other significant life transitions

If you are unsure whether Held in Care is the right fit, we encourage you to reach out. We would be honored to connect with you.

Eligibility & Review

Applicants must be experiencing grief, loss, or a significant life transition. Requests are evaluated based on mission alignment rather than diagnosis alone.

The review team considers:

- Whether the request removes a meaningful barrier to healing
- Urgency and individual circumstances
- Available program resources and funding
- Appropriateness of the requested support
- Whether Light of Grief is the appropriate organization to help

Funding Priorities

- Immediate Compassion
- Healing Access
- Health & Recovery
- Life Transition Support
- Community Care

What to Expect

1. Inquiry or Request for Support is received.
2. An initial care conversation may be held to better understand the need.
3. A completed application is submitted.
4. The request is reviewed with compassion and confidentiality.

5. A decision and care plan are determined based on available resources and program guidelines.
6. Approved support is distributed or coordinated.
7. Light of Grief follows up, generally within 30 days, to assess whether additional referrals, healing opportunities, or community connection may be appropriate.

Payment & Assistance Standards

Whenever possible, financial assistance is paid directly to an approved vendor or service provider rather than to an individual applicant. Exceptions require committee approval.

Support is based on available funding and organizational capacity. Submission of an application does not guarantee financial assistance or approval.

Requests may include, but are not limited to, approved expenses connected to transportation, meals, temporary lodging, funeral expenses, healing experiences, educational opportunities, health and recovery needs, and other mission-aligned barriers to healing.

Light of Grief may provide resource navigation, referrals, healing opportunities, or community connection even when direct financial assistance is unavailable.

Review & Committee Standards

- Maintain applicant confidentiality.
- Disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.
- Steward charitable resources responsibly.
- Treat every applicant with dignity and without judgment.
- Document funding and support decisions.
- Consider each request individually based on circumstances, urgency, mission alignment, and available resources.

Important Program Guidelines

- Applications are reviewed individually and confidentially.
- Incomplete applications or missing documentation may delay review.
- Funding availability and application volume may affect the amount or timing of assistance.
- Light of Grief may request additional information when necessary to evaluate or fulfill a request.
- Approval for one form of assistance does not create an entitlement to future assistance.
- Light of Grief reserves the ability to decline requests that fall outside its mission, available resources, or organizational capacity.

Follow-Up & Success Measures

Held in Care is intended to do more than complete a transaction. Follow-up helps Light of Grief identify additional referrals, healing opportunities, resources, or community connections that may support the individual or family.

- Applicants feel seen and supported.
- Barriers to healing are reduced.
- Community connections increase.
- People feel more connected, hopeful, and less alone.
- Program funds are stewarded responsibly.
- Partnerships and community referrals strengthen over time.

Our Promise

Every request is reviewed with compassion, dignity, respect, confidentiality, and thoughtful stewardship. Whether or not Light of Grief is able to provide direct assistance, we will do our best to connect individuals and families with resources that may help.

You are not alone.

Light of Grief
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