

BISHOPS' STOREHOUSE

Purpose

Bishops' storehouses distribute commodities to the poor and needy as requested by bishops. Bishops' storehouses also provide meaningful service opportunities for those receiving assistance and for those desiring to serve missions or to volunteer.

The role of a storehouse is outlined in the Doctrine and Covenants: "And again, let the bishop appoint a storehouse unto this church; and let all things both in money and in meat, which are more than is needful for the wants of this people, be kept in the hands of the bishop" (D&C 51:13).

Welfare Principles

Bishops should be guided by the basic welfare principles outlined in *Providing in the Lord's Way: Summary of a Leader's Guide to Welfare*. Specifically, as bishops care for the poor and needy they should:

- Seek out the poor
- Promote personal responsibility
- Sustain life, not lifestyle
- Provide commodities before cash
- Give work opportunities

Using the Bishops' Storehouse

- Bishops provide food and clothing to families by completing the Bishop's Order for Commodities—Food and Supplies form 33585 (01549 for outside the United States and Canada).
- The bishop normally assigns the Relief Society president to visit members and:
 - Consult with the individual or family to determine needs.
 - Complete the Bishop's Order for Commodities—Food and Supplies (instructions are provided on the form).
 - Ask the bishop to approve and sign the form.
- Families present completed forms at a bishops' storehouse to receive commodities. To help foster a spirit of love and trust, bishops and Relief Society presidents should not send forms in a sealed envelope.
- Bishops ask those receiving assistance to work to the extent of their ability for the assistance they receive. The storehouse may provide work opportunities for those receiving assistance.

