

Clothes Closet

Additional Requirements

- **Financial:** The financial needs will be determined by whom you choose to serve (students, families, etc.) and how large the demand is in your area. How do we meet the financial needs of running a Clothes Closet without being a drain on the church?
 - Procurement from businesses
 - Procurement from service organizations
 - Procurement from church attendees through donations
 - Grants
 - See "Partnerships" section below
- **Facilities:** There are some realistic, nonnegotiable needs for space.
 - The Clothes Closet: Is there an unused room or multiuse room that could be used, or an offsite location close? Are you going to need electricity for washers and dryers? Some schools might even have an underused shop building or similar space.
 - An onsite location is great. It provides easy access for students and staff. There may be access and security issues. When can you get into the building, and who else has access?
 - Offsite locations give greater flexibility for volunteers, but limit student access.
 - Storage: With different sizes, genders and seasons of clothing, storage can be problematic. An easy system for volunteers and clients to get to what they need is a must.
 - Separate by gender. This immediately cuts out half of the guessing.
 - Separate by clothing type. Providing a store-like experience adds dignity to their experience.
 - Organize by size. A little extra work to organize the sizes greatly limits the amount of time they have to spend "shopping."
 - Store out-of-season clothes. Winter coats just get in the way during the summer. Can you find an area to neatly store unneeded clothes in an organized way? Larger, labeled storage bins on shelves can accomplish this goal while providing ease of access when the season changes.
- **Transportation:** Whenever you are providing a product to customers, you have to transport that product. How will you get the supplies to your location?
 - Delivery: Some partner organizations may deliver to your location.
 - Pickup: If your church or other organizations you partner with collect supplies, you can create easy volunteer opportunities by having a team who drives, when needed, to where the donations

are being collected and deliver them to your site. (See Volunteer Organization document under "Process.")

- **Purchasing:** If you have collected money or gift cards to purchase supplies, you can create another easy volunteer opportunity by having a team go shopping and deliver the supplies to your location.
- **Partnerships:** Many organizations have a heart to clothe students and their families. Partnerships multiply your ability to serve. Who can you partner with?
 - Local businesses for donations
 - Local clothing stores
 - Clubs (Rotary, Elks, etc.)
 - Other churches
 - PTA