

# Everence Pastoral Financial Wellness Program

## Frequently asked questions

### What is the maximum amount awarded for a pastoral financial assistance grant?

Pastors may apply for grants of up to \$5,000 per household. However, special considerations for grants of up to \$10,000 may be given for pastors exhibiting extraordinary need.

### Who is eligible to receive a financial assistance grant?

From 2022 through 2025, financial assistance grants will go to help pastors who exhibit dire need, are under-represented, and/or are most harshly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Why did the financial assistance grant eligibility criteria change?

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically disrupted congregations and worsened many of the financial challenges that pastors face. Often, those hardest hit are pastors serving small congregations, racially and ethnically diverse communities, and new church starts – as well as younger and/or bi-vocational pastors – who often have limited access to financial resources and support.

### I am a chaplain in a hospital with credentials from my conference/district. Am I eligible for this grant?

No, this grant is only for active, credentialed congregational pastors, as is required by the Lilly Endowment Inc.

### May I request grant dollars to supplement my retirement?

No, grant money may not be used to supplement retirement accounts. Grants can, however, be used to pay down debt such as educational loans, credit cards, unpaid medical expenses and related financial burdens. As debts are paid down, pastors are encouraged to redirect money toward retirement planning.

### Are pastors required to raise matching funds to receive a financial assistance grant?

No, unlike previous years of the program, pastors do not need to raise matching funds to receive a pastoral financial assistance grant.

### If I've already received a Pastoral Financial Assistance Grant for debt reduction, may I apply for another similar grant?

Yes, unlike in previous years, pastors who received a financial assistance grant in previous years of the program may apply for another grant between Jan. 1, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2025.

### Does my conference or district minister need to be involved in the financial assistance grant process?

Because of the specific eligibility criteria, potential grant recipients must be recommended or referred by their denominational leadership (such as their conference or district minister) and/or an Everence stewardship consultant.

### If I receive a Pastoral Financial Assistance Grant, do I need to report it on my taxes?

You will receive a 1099 Form from Everence Foundation, and the grant needs to be reported as additional income for the tax year in which it was received. Contact your tax professional for more information on filing your tax returns.

### Has anything changed regarding the financial education and financial planning subsidy parts of the program?

No, these components of the Everence Pastoral Financial Wellness Program will continue as long as funds remain.



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