



The Assistance Program — Housing Supplements

Housing Supplements provide financial assistance to help eligible retirees remain in their own homes or move to retirement facilities in locations of their choice. Depending on the levels of personal income and assets, applicants may receive one-time financial assistance to help pay the costs associated with the entrance fee to a retirement home, the maintenance of a current home, and/or moving.

To qualify for a Housing Supplement, an applicant's annual income must be below the target set by the Board of Pensions (the 2011 target is \$39,450 a year). Other eligibility requirements include service to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or its predecessors, for a minimum of 20 years, and commensurate participation in the pension portion of the Benefits Plan. Applicants receive credit toward years of service for any years of total disability under the plan. Personal asset levels are also taken into consideration when considering eligibility.

The Assistance Program expects that persons will first use their own income and assets to maintain their quality of life.

Applicants can reduce assets to the target level with payment or partial payment of an entrance fee to a retirement home or prepayment of funeral expenses. Applicants may not divert funds to protect an estate or to provide benefits for family members. The Board may question any diversion of assets.

To be eligible for a monthly Housing Supplement, a retiree's total income from all sources should be \$39,450 a year or less.

If individuals are not receiving Social Security benefits, the Board assumes that they have secured alternate protection and any assistance is reduced by an amount which the Board determines would have been payable under Social Security. (See Housing Supplement Guidelines chart, below.)

An Example

A retired church worker who has served the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and has been a member of the Benefits Plan for 20 years is living in an independent living unit within a retirement community where the total housing expenses are \$1,300 per month. The total retirement income for the church worker is \$28,500, or \$2,375 per month, and his assets are below the maximum allowable for a single person. Forty percent of the total monthly income is \$950 per month. In this situation, assuming that the retiree meets all eligibility requirements, the Board's Assistance Program would provide a monthly Housing Supplement of \$350 per month, which represents the difference between 40% of his monthly income (\$950) and the retiree's housing expenses of \$1,300 considered for this housing situation.

Housing Supplement Guidelines

Your living situation (You live in a/an:)	Maximum total assets allowed		Maximum monthly housing expenses considered by Assistance Program	Percentage of your income to be contributed toward housing expenses
	Single	Couple		
Home or apartment in the general community	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$1,000	40%
Independent living unit in a retirement community	\$25,000	\$40,000	\$1,500	40%
Congregate living unit (separate living quarters, no cooking facilities) in a retirement community	\$25,000	\$40,000	\$2,500	67%
Assisted living unit in a retirement community	\$20,000	\$35,000	\$3,400	67%



Lump Sum Housing Supplement

In addition to monthly Housing Supplements, a lump sum Housing Supplement of up to a maximum of \$20,000 may be available to eligible applicants for use toward an entrance fee to a continuing care retirement community. If the retirement community's contract contains a refunds provision, the Board may expect to receive a refund of the prorated equivalent of its participation in the entrance fee.

Any application may require the endorsement, where appropriate, of the Committee on Ministry of the presbytery of residence. When a presbytery or other party has been financially involved with the previous needs of an applicant, they are expected to continue their financial commitment as part of the Board's program of housing assistance.

About the Assistance Program

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions comprises a range of programs designed to meet specific assistance needs of Presbyterian pastors and other church workers at various points in their lives. These programs complement the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and provide an important safety net to church workers and their families whose needs exceed personal resources or other means of support.

Through the Assistance Program, the church community provides care for:

- church workers' *urgent financial needs* through Shared, Emergency Assistance, Adoption Assistance, and Transition-to-College Assistance Grants
- retired church workers' *financial and housing needs* through Income and Housing Supplements
- pastors' *vocational leadership needs* through Seminary Debt Assistance, Middle Governing Body Grants, Presbyterian CREDO, and Sabbath Sabbatical Support Grants

The Assistance Program is funded by gifts, legacies, income from endowments, and half of the Christmas Joy Offering.

For information on applying for assistance, call 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN) or visit Pensions.org.