



The Assistance Program — Emergency Assistance Grants

At times, Benefits Plan members and retirees may have unanticipated financial demands, such as in-home healthcare, medical or mental healthcare expenses, or other emergency needs, which are not covered by the Benefits Plan. To better serve Plan members, the Board initiated Emergency Assistance Grants to provide financial help to persons with such needs. Emergency Assistance Grants are accessible if a church governing body or an employing organization is unable to participate in a Shared Grant because of insufficient funds.

These grants are also available for extraordinary medical or hospitalization costs. Assistance for long-term care at home or in a nursing facility are available only after recipients first apply for help through public entitlement programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, etc.

As in a Shared Grant, governing bodies or employing organizations confirm and validate that other resources to cover the need have been exhausted and that there are no community resources available. The organization and the individual needing assistance then complete the Shared Grant application and send it to the Board.

Emergency Assistance Grants are limited to \$5,000 each time, not to exceed \$15,000 annually.

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 who have specific needs that 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 the Christmas Joy Offering.

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