



The Assistance Program — Shared Grants

Shared Grants are designed to help active and retired church workers or their surviving spouses with special financial needs or in emergency situations. They must be recommended by a governing body or an employing organization of the church that is willing to financially share in the grant with the Board. Grants may also be awarded by the Board with two or more other bodies of the church. Each case is reviewed on its merits as determined by the person's need and available resources.

In assessing the need, the person's income, assets, and other financial resources are considered. Examples of special needs or emergency situations are outstanding medical and dental expenses not covered by the Benefits Plan or insurance, extenuating financial problems, and unexpected emergencies.

While the Board will approve grants for a variety of needs, it does not approve Shared Grants that:

- subsidize a presbytery's mission responsibility
- substitute for a presbytery's or an employer's support of a terminated church worker
- provide moving expenses (except in extreme cases, such as those occasioned by illness, disability, divorce, etc.)
- pay for legal fees, fines, legal penalties
- pay for Benefit Plan dues

To be considered for a grant, both the individual needing assistance and the governing body or employing organization must complete the written application, available upon the grant sponsor's request from the Board's Assistance Team.

The Board does not initiate grants.

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.