

Everence Pastoral Financial Wellness Program

Pastoral financial assistance grant fact sheet

Benefit

Matching grant of up to \$2,500 plus 20 percent “gross up” for taxes, funded by a Lilly Endowment grant awarded to Everence® to address the unique financial challenges that many pastors face. Maximum grant amount would assist a pastor with \$5,000 of expenses (\$2,500 matching funds and \$2,500 pastoral financial assistance grant) plus \$1,000 for taxes (20 percent – also split by the two sources). Total of \$6,000 split between the pastoral financial assistance grant and the match amount.

Getting started

Before submitting a pastoral financial assistance grant application, please arrange a conversation with 1) an Everence financial advisor or 2) an LSS Financial Counseling credit counselor to begin the financial education component of this grant.

To find an Everence advisor near you, visit everence.com. You may also call Patty Skelton, Everence Administrative Assistant, or Beryl Jantzi, Everence Director of Stewardship Education, at (800) 442-7930.

To connect with a credit counselor from LSS Financial Counseling, call (877) 809-0039. Counselors are available to help pastors in both English and Spanish.

Who is eligible?

Credentialed and active pastors from any Everence-affiliated church who have not previously received this benefit.

Eligible expenses

Various kinds of debt including educational, medical and credit card debt. Other financial concerns will be considered.

Grant restrictions

Examples of ineligible expenses are scholarship for seminary tuition or continuing education, sabbatical expenses, salary or benefit assistance, or office and home upgrades.

Funding availability

This is a three-year program, beginning in 2019 and concluding in 2021. Pastors who did not receive this benefit between 2016-2018 are eligible to access this fund one time between 2019-2021, or as long as funds last.



Decision deadlines

March 1, June 1, Sept. 1 and Nov. 1.

Application review process

A team from Everence reviews new applications on a quarterly basis.

Matching funds

Matching funds may come from various sources, including:

1. Contributions from local churches/meetings.
2. Contributions from conferences/districts.
3. Other funding sources.

Matching funds must run through the conference/district or church. Everence is unable to accept personal checks from individuals for this program.

20 percent “gross up”

A check will be sent directly to the pastor to hold and use as called for by tax law. The pastor will receive a 1099 from Mennonite Foundation. The pastor will need to report the grant as additional income for the tax year in which it was received. Questions regarding this should be directed to the pastor’s accountant.

How to apply

1. Get application and a budget form from your Everence stewardship consultant or conference minister/district executive.
2. Arrange for a conversation with an Everence financial advisor or a credit counselor from LSS Financial Counseling before submitting an application.
3. Complete and submit a digital application and budget form to Patty Skelton, Everence Administrative Assistant, at patty.skelton@everence.com.
4. The application review team will review the application, make a decision and notify the pastor with instructions for the next steps.
5. Mennonite Foundation will process and mail gross-up checks directly to the pastor. Other checks will be sent directly to vendors to pay off debt.