

Addressing pastoral challenges

The Everence Pastoral Financial Wellness Program is funded, in part, by generous support from the Lilly Endowment's National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. Approximately half of the money awarded to Everence is available as matching funds for the Pastoral Financial Assistance Grants to help pastors needing immediate financial assistance related to debt. The remainder of the money awarded supports educational programs to help pastors learn how to better manage their finances and plan for retirement.

How to apply

Everence helps individuals, organizations and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education.

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Pastoral Financial Assistance Grant

A program of the Everence Pastoral Financial Wellness Program

Everence offers credit union services that are federally insured by NCUA. We also offer securities and other products that are not federally insured and are subject to loss of principal. All products are not available in all states.

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Pastoral Financial Assistance Grant application guidelines

As part of the Everence Pastoral Financial Wellness Program, financial assistance grants are available to help pastors address immediate financial needs, such as:

- Medical debt
- Credit card debt
- Educational loan assistance
- Or other financial concerns

Matching grant requirement

Each Pastoral Financial Assistance Grant must to be matched, dollar for dollar, by congregations, conferences, districts, individuals or other funding sources. This Lilly Endowment requirement expands the amount of money available and the number of pastors who can be assisted. Each applicant should work with his or her church, district or conferences leadership to help secure these funds.

Fund structure

Pastoral Financial Assistance Grant applications are available at everence.com, as well as some denominational leaders, conference/district ministers and area overseers. Pastors also may contact their regional Everence stewardship consultants.

Grant applications will be reviewed by Everence staff to determine if the needs and requests identified meet the grant qualifications. Fund applications should not exceed \$5,000 per request. Exceptions may be made, but must be explained in the application and supported with a letter of explanation by the pastor's overseer or minister.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to participate in this program, individuals must:

- Be an active and credentialed pastor of an Everence-affiliated congregation, and
- State a specific financial need in the areas of medical debt, credit card debt, educational loan assistance or other financial concerns.

Pastors who have previously received a Pastoral Financial Assistance Grant as part of this program are not eligible to apply again.

Grant restrictions

Financial needs outside the framework of this grant include:

- Scholarships for seminary tuition or continuing education
- Sabbatical expenses
- Salary or benefit assistance
- Office or home upgrades

Application process

- Arrange for a conversation with an Everence financial advisor or a credit counselor from LSS Financial Counseling before submitting an application. To find an Everence advisor, visit everence.com. To connect with a credit counselor from LSS Financial Counseling, call (877) 809-0039.
- Submit a completed grant application, along with a household budget form.
- Talk with your conference/district minister or overseer regarding the matching grant requirement.

Tax implications

Any Pastoral Financial Assistance Grant and matching grant awarded to a pastor will include an additional 20 percent of the total amount of the grant to address the tax implication of the gift. A check will be sent directly to the pastor to hold and use as called for by tax law. Questions regarding tax implications should be directed to a tax professional.

For more information, contact:

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