

Presbytery of Donegal Emergency Loans for Congregations Experiencing Financial Hardship Due to COVID-19

The Administration Committee and the Leader Team of the Presbytery of Donegal recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic will bring unprecedented challenges to our congregations in all areas of ministry and mission. Some congregations have sufficient cash on hand and unrestricted funds to cover essential operations and payroll until the “New Normal” emerges. Other congregations rely upon weekly offerings to meet their current obligations.

Due to the generosity of contributors past and present, the Presbytery of Donegal is announcing the availability of Emergency Loans for congregations experiencing immediate financial hardship. Sessions may apply for an Emergency Loan of up to \$5,000 at zero percent interest.

The funds will come first from the Presbytery’s Warroll Fund, which makes revolving loans available for congregations. If the Warroll Fund is exhausted, several other funds, including the Mission Reserve Fund, can be tapped to meet critical needs of congregations.

Emergency Loan Application Process

1. Sessions may apply for an Emergency Loan of up to \$5,000 at zero percent interest.
2. Applications will be available as online forms, or as forms to be filled out and emailed or mailed to the presbytery office. The [online application is located here](#) and is also linked on the Covid-19 page on the presbytery website. If unable to fill out the online application, please contact the presbytery office for assistance.
3. The loans will be administered by an Emergency Financial Team composed of members of the Administration Committee, the Connecting Our Ministries Commission (COM), and the Leader Team.
4. Priority will be given to loans to meet payroll and other critical immediate expenses.
5. Repayment terms will be established for each loan. The norm will be for repayment to begin no later than one year after disbursement, with a payment term of 24 months. Specific terms can be negotiated.
6. If more than \$5,000 is needed to meet financial obligations over the next six months, the Administration Committee, COM and the Leader Team will work together for individualized consultations with the session on shorter and longer-term planning for the future prior to disbursement of an additional \$5,000.
7. In order to apply sessions must hold a session meeting to:
 - a. Vote to request the emergency loan
 - b. Establish the requested amount of the loan (up to \$5,000)
 - c. Agree to establish a repayment plan to begin no later than May 2021

8. The session meeting must be by telephone conference call or by videoconference, such as Zoom. The Presbytery Office can assist pastors and sessions with setting up this electronic meeting and can assist with tech support during the meeting as well. The Executive Presbyter or Stated Clerk are available to attend the meeting to assist with the conversation.
9. The application requires a copy of the session minutes and also a copy of a recent financial statement/s. The financial statement/s must include an account of unrestricted and restricted funds held by the congregation, such as CDs or endowments.
10. The Emergency Financial Team will meet as soon as possible after the application, session minutes and financial statements are received to act upon the application. Tech support is available to transmit documents electronically.
11. Loans will be available for distribution within 48 hours of approval of the loan sent by paper check through the US Postal Service to the verified church address.
12. The Clerk of Session and the Pastor/Moderator of Session will need to sign the Repayment Agreement. This Repayment Agreement may be signed and returned after the COVID-19 Restrictions are lifted, provided session minutes with the provisions listed above have been submitted.