

## Explanation

### **COVID Relief Grant**



#### **Purpose**

The COVID Relief Grant is intended to help rostered ministers' households who were or who are financially impacted by COVID-19 going back to March 2020. The Lilly Endowment, Inc. gave our synod dollars to make this grant available in our ongoing effort to assist rostered ministers improve their financial wellbeing and support their development as leaders in their congregations.

#### **Eligibility**

- A rostered minister under call in the SW MN synod.

#### **Eligible Expenses**

- Expenses occurred in your household caused by COVID-19.
- Eligible expenses may go back to the beginning of the pandemic in our synod (March 2020) and will be open until December 15, 2023.

#### **Examples of COVID-19 Incurred Expenses**

- Medical expenses (e.g. someone in the family infected by COVID, costs for testing or vaccination)
- Counseling expenses due to dealing with the stresses of the pandemic and its effects
- Reduction in income (e.g. a congregation unable to meet their payroll, a spouse's hours being cut, etc.)
- Technology (e.g. equipment or increased bandwidth required for children to attend school from home, etc.)
- Additional childcare expenses due to COVID-19
- Continuing education costs (e.g. technical training needed to do your work, etc.)
- Additional costs for children's schooling
- Additional home expenses

This is not an exhaustive list. There may be other eligible expenses incurred because of COVID-19. The common denominator is that you had new expenses in your household caused by the pandemic.

#### **Amount**

Up to \$2,000 per household.

#### **How to apply** (over, please)

## **How to apply**

The application for the COVID Relief grant has two parts –

1. First, completed the COVID Relief grant application. It can be found online on the Southwestern Minnesota Synod's website ([www.swmnelca.org/grants](http://www.swmnelca.org/grants)).

A printable paper application can also be found attached to the email announcing this new grant. Your paper application can be emailed to Pr. Andrew Hermodson-Olsen ([pastorandy@flcstjames.org](mailto:pastorandy@flcstjames.org)) or mailed to:

Pastor Andrew Hermodson-Olsen  
First Lutheran Church  
Box 268  
St. James, MN 56081

2. Second, a pastoral conversation with either Bishop Dee Pederson or Pastor Andrew Hermodson-Olsen will follow your application. One of them will reach out to you in a timely basis after receiving your application. Note that proof of expenses are not needed as part of your application.