

When the Unexpected Happens

You May Be Eligible for an Emergency Grant

Sometimes those who serve the church encounter unexpected situations that present financial challenges. The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the philanthropic arm of the Pension Boards, offers emergency grants for active or retired clergy, lay church workers, and Members in Discernment to help meet eligible needs.

What Constitutes an Emergency for Grant Assistance?

An unforeseen circumstance that creates financial demands such as:

- Risk of homelessness
- Losing medical coverage
- Unaffordable medical bills

Note: Emergency Grants are not for avoidable situations resulting from conscious choices. They cannot be used to offset personal loans, taxes, or (non-medical-related) credit card debt.

Who is eligible to apply?

- UCC Authorized Ministers in Good Standing
- Lay Employees of a Qualified Church-Controlled Organization (QCCO):
 - Such as a UCC congregation, Association, Conference, or National Setting, with a minimum of 10 years of service
- Surviving spouses/partners of the above
- Members in Discernment for at least a year registered at an UCC Conference or Association.

How to Apply

Contact Your Conference Minister

Discuss your request with your Conference Minister before completing the application. The endorsement of your Conference Minister is required to be considered for an Emergency Grant.

Follow this link to the Emergency Assistance Grant Online Application

If the link asks for login credentials, create a new login.

Filling Out the Online Application

Describe the specifics of your emergency, including the amount requested and how the situation will be resolved in the future if assistance is granted.

Upload any invoice or estimate supporting your request for assistance.

For medical expenses, upload a copy of the invoice from your service provider. Funds might be disbursed directly to them.

What to Expect

- Once your Conference Minister submits the endorsement, your request will be routed to Ministerial Assistance for processing.
- You will be contacted with the results of your application and/or any additional information required.
- Processing time is between 2-4 days after receiving the endorsement. If approved, funds will be disbursed within 7-10 business days.

Privacy Notice: For medical condition-related grants, do not share specifics of your condition or procedural needs with us.

Massachusetts Authorized Ministers

Massachusetts authorized ministers who wish to apply for an emergency grant offered by the Massachusetts Board of Ministerial Aid (BMA), can complete the online **Pension Boards-UCC Request for Emergency Assistance Application**. The Pension Boards partners with the Board of Ministerial Aid in administering emergency grant applications for Massachusetts-based authorized ministers.

You can also print and complete this paper application and email it to the Pension Boards at ministerialassistance@pbucc.org, or mail the form to the Pension Boards-UCC, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1020 | New York, NY 10115. For any questions, please send an email to ministerialassistance@pbucc.org.