

# PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS

## COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF OVERVIEW

### Strategic Coordinating Team

Approved by the SCT on April 16, 2020; Updated August 6, 2020

*The SCT has closed the grant and loan application process, except for Per Capita and Mission Giving Relief, per the deadline stated below. The SCT is currently re-evaluating the COVID Relief Fund for a second round of possible relief for our PLR faith communities.*

### OVERVIEW

The Presbytery of Los Ranchos (PLR) has established a COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide emergency aid to eligible faith communities impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. This fund is intended to be used only for issues directly related to the COVID-19 emergency, and to enable faith communities to maintain current ministries. The Presbytery Council has authorized the Strategic Coordinating Team (SCT) to administer the distribution of this fund.

This fund is not intended for cases in which long-term financial support is needed. The presbytery will consider all requests and strongly encourages faith communities to explore other avenues for relief such as special contributions from its members, government benefits and loans, and waiver or deferral permission from the Board of Pensions.

### RESOURCES

Thanks to the mission giving of PLR congregations, wise stewardship by presbytery leaders, and the generous support of the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, the presbytery established the COVID-19 Relief Fund with the following initial resources:

\$500,000	\$124,600 from SCT Funds re-directed to COVID-19 Emergency Relief, supplemented from PLR Investment Pool.
\$150,000	Synod Grant

### DESCRIPTION

Three forms of emergency relief are available to PLR faith communities:

1. Postponement of Per Capita giving to September 1, 2020, and/or postponement of General Mission Giving to December 31, 2020, for congregations.
2. COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grants of \$25 per member, but not less than \$2,500 per faith community or more than \$20,000 per faith community.
3. COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loans for Congregations of up to \$20,000 are available to congregations that demonstrate a short-term financial shortfall but have historically been self-sustaining, including support of the mission of the PC(USA) through Per Capita and

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Mission Giving. Terms are zero interest until June 30, 2021, and 4% interest starting on July 1, 2021, to be repaid over three years.

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### ELIGIBILITY

PLR faith communities, i.e. current member congregations, new worshipping communities (NWC), and long-standing PLR fellowships, are eligible for COVID-19 Emergency Relief. Note: Only member congregations are eligible for relief in the form of loans or postponement of Per Capita and/or General Mission Giving.

### PROCEDURES

- a. A completed “COVID-19 Emergency Relief” application (for postponement of Per Capita and/or General Mission Giving, Grant, and/or Loan) shall be submitted by the faith community.
- b. In the case of a congregation, the application shall be approved by the session and attested to by the Clerk of Session.
- c. In the case of a NWC or long-standing fellowship, it shall be approved by the leadership team or steering committee and attested to by the pastoral leader.
- d. Applications with required documentation shall be sent to [dhaley@losranchos.org](mailto:dhaley@losranchos.org).
- e. Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2020. This deadline may be extended upon approval of the Presbytery or Council.
- f. Relief shall begin no later than June 1, 2020.
- g. All requests shall be reviewed and approved by the Strategic Coordinating Team. The SCT may request additional documentation.
- h. Funds for grants and loans will be transferred electronically. Upon approval of a grant or loan, the Presbytery Business Manager will contact the faith community for banking information.
- i. Upon acceptance of relief, the grantee agrees to engage with the presbytery in a relationship that further explores the health, sustainability and stewardship goals of the faith community.
- j. Grant recipients will submit an expense report detailing how the funds were used within six months of receiving the grant.
- k. After the initial COVID-19 Emergency Relief application deadline expires, the SCT will evaluate the process and assess the financial need still existing in the presbytery and notify faith communities if another round of applications will be accepted.

If you have questions about the COVID-19 Emergency Relief program or need assistance in completing your application, please contact Debbie Haley at [dhaley@losranchos.org](mailto:dhaley@losranchos.org).