

Guidelines for the Farmer Fund Grant Application

The following guidelines shall be used in reviewing and approving a Farmer Fund Grant application:

- An individual may receive one grant in a calendar year.
- A grant will not be approved if a previous grant was made for the same emergency situation.
- A grant will only be approved for a one-time emergency situation.
Note: An emergency is defined as an “unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action; a pressing need.”
- Distressed clergy members or former clergy members of an annual conference; their spouses, former surviving spouses or surviving dependent children (including adult dependent children) are eligible to apply for a grant. The term “clergy member” is interpreted to mean both active and retired conference members.
- A grant is not to be used solely to supplement disability insurance or the loss of income due to disability status.
- An annual conference requesting a grant on behalf of a participant must provide sufficient information to justify the grant. An application must be completed by the participant or a person authorized* to act on the participant’s behalf. The annual conference must provide a written description of the applicant’s situation and a supporting statement on why this is a one-time emergency.
- The conference liaison related to the annual conference shall review and approve the application and statement prior to submitting it to the Farmer Fund Program administrator.
- The grant amount will be a maximum of \$3,000 per individual request. Each request will be reviewed on an individual basis based on need.
- The annual conference must certify that a concurrent grant will be made on a \$1.00 for \$3.00 basis.
- When a grant application is approved, the check will be sent to the annual conference office to forward to the applicant.
- A grant is not to be used to supplement loss of income when an appointment is not made by an annual conference.

Note: Farmer Fund grants received from Wespath Benefits and Investments are charitable gifts and should not be reported on the applicant’s IRS forms W-2 or 1099. However, conference concurrent grants for a clergyperson may be considered taxable income due to the relationship between the clergyperson and the annual conference.

* Authorized: Power of attorney or agreement between participant and conference officer, or a court-appointed guardian.