

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND, INC.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT-LCMS

1850 North Grand Avenue West
Springfield, IL 62702-1626



March 31, 2020

Dear Congregations and Schools of the Central Illinois District:

You may have been hearing information about the CARES Act recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump. Based on preliminary information coming to us, it appears it will offer relief for religious organizations during this coronavirus crisis. Until the Small Business Administration (SBA) finalizes regulations, we cannot say with certainty how the CARES Act will be administered, but this is what is anticipated:

- Loans will be available to religious organizations up to 2.5 times their monthly payroll costs.
 - Included in this monthly payroll cost figure are salaries, health insurance premiums, retirement benefits, and payroll taxes.
- The loan can be obtained through local banks.
- To qualify for the loan, the organization must continue to employ their staff, or, if already laid off, they must be brought back on staff.
- The loan proceeds can be used for payroll costs, health insurance, interest on mortgages, and utilities, among other costs.
- The loan may be forgiven if staff continues to be employed during the covered 8-week period.

Accompanying this letter is a preliminary communication on the CARES Act issued by the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship. As mentioned previously, regulations are not finalized. The SBA has 30 days to issue its regulations, but, given the urgency of the crisis, much earlier issuance is anticipated. We will communicate with you as information is made available to us.

We cannot advise you on if or how your organization should apply for this loan under the CARES Act, but if you intend to do so, we recommend beginning preparation of the information that most likely will be required under the loan.

God's blessings and guidance as we trust in Him to see us through this new challenge.

Blessings,

Christine Anderson
Executive Director
Church Extension Fund - CID