



The South Dakota District Special “One Another” Coronavirus Relief Fund for District Congregations and Schools

Purpose

“But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head” (Psalm 3:3). In Psalm 3 David finds himself attacked by so many different enemies that it would be understandable for him to feel depressed and discouraged and to hang his head in defeat. Instead, David expresses faith and trust that the Lord is protecting him. David also recognizes that God lifts his head to look at the Lord in confident faith, rather than looking down to focus on the enemies that are surrounding him. The Coronavirus pandemic and the extreme measures it has taken to combat the spread of the virus has left no segment of society untouched. This is especially true for congregations and school ministries that rely on the generous offerings and tuition income of their people to sustain their ministries. The South Dakota District realizes that congregation and school ministries may find themselves in situations where they are struggling financially in the coming months. Rather than “looking down” and focusing on their financial problem, we want congregations and school ministries to be able to “look up” to God, who is a provider for all of their needs of body and soul. This will allow our congregations and schools to continue their Gospel ministries of pointing people to the Lord, who is “the lifter of our heads.” We believe that this relief fund is in accordance with the will and Word of God, which says in 1 John 3:23: “And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He commanded us.”

Eligibility

All Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations, early childhood centers, self-standing preschools, elementary, and high schools in the South Dakota District are eligible to apply for a loan from the special “One Another” Coronavirus Relief Fund. Relief funds may be used for ministry expenses, including, but not limited to: salary and benefit payments, operational costs, and routine costs of conducting ministry. This relief fund will be available for congregations and schools until December 31, 2020 or as long as relief funds are available.

Terms

All loans will be made at the rate of 0% interest.

District congregations and schools may elect to borrow \$1,200, \$2,400, or \$4,800.

All loans will have a 12-month grace period, beginning from the date of issuance, where no repayment is expected. After the end of the 12-month grace period, the loan will be repayable in 12 equal monthly installments, with the expectation that the loan will be repaid in full within 14 months from the end of the 12-month grace period.

Congregations and schools may only receive one (1) loan. For congregations that operate an early childhood center or school, both entities, the congregation and school, may apply for, and be granted, one loan each.

Policy

Loans from the Relief Fund will be made on the basis of:

1. Completion of an application form.
2. Amount of money available in the Relief Fund.
3. The need and proposed use of the loan funds. The loan program will be a rolling program. Application deadlines are: May 15, July 1, August 15, October 1, November 15, and December 30. Loan disbursements will be made shortly after these application deadlines. In cases of dire and pressing need, the immediate granting of a loan will be considered. Loan requests will not be guaranteed to be made in full, but loan requests will be evaluated on the basis of need and loan funds available.

The Relief Fund application can be found online on the South Dakota District website: <https://sddlcms.org/forms-applications>. All loans will be processed by the District Business Manager. Loan applications will be approved or denied by action of the District Executive Staff, which includes District President, Business Manager, and Executive Secretary. All loans and loan amounts will be reported to the District Board of Directors.

Each applicant receiving a loan from the Relief Fund will receive a promissory note for the full amount of the loan that shall be signed by an authorized representative of the congregation or school and returned to the District Office. In addition to the promissory note, the loan recipient will receive a repayment schedule indicating the date and amount of each monthly payment. Repayment will be made to: The South Dakota District, LCMS, 3501 South Gateway Blvd., Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

The District Business Manager will gather the necessary signatures for the promissory note and disburse the loan proceeds. The District Business Manager will maintain a file for each applicant, which contains all data relative to the loan process.



“One Another” Coronavirus Relief Fund Organizational Loan Application

South Dakota District, LCMS
3501 Gateway Blvd.
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Loan Number _____

Applicant

Church or School Name

_____ SD _____

Address City Zip Code

E-Mail Address Office Phone

Purpose of the Loan

(e.g. pay salaries, pay benefits, pay operational costs, catch up on past due bills, etc.)

As a prerequisite to receiving a “One Another” Coronavirus Relief Loan, I have received, read, and agree to the “One Another” Coronavirus Relief Loan Guidelines.

Signature of Pastor, School Administrator, EC/Preschool Director Date

Signature of another Authorized Signee Date
(Congregation Chairman, Board President, Treasurer)