Grace Happens
News & Notes from The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

April 2, 2020

CARES Act Offers Relief for Struggling Nonprofits, Including Churches

Prepare for the
CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on Friday, March 27.
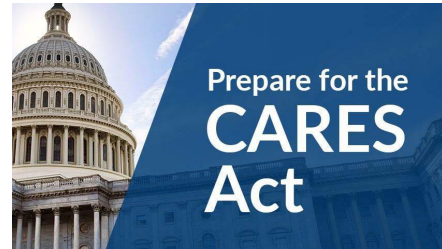
The Act includes assistance in a number of forms, including forgivable loans for small businesses (including churches), employee-retention tax credits, direct stimulus payments to Americans, enhanced unemployment aid, payroll tax deferment, and charitable giving incentives.

The following resources will be helpful in evaluating the assistance available and determining what is most appropriate for your parish:

- [CARES Act Key Provisions](#) provides an overview of the types of assistance available to churches.

- [Loans Available for Nonprofits](#) provides descriptions and differences between Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) Loans (forgivable loans of up to 2.5 times average monthly payroll cost) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) (of $10,000)

- [Coronavirus Emergency Loans Guide](#) provides helpful details about the Paycheck Protection Plan Forgivable Loans with explanations for calculating the amount of assistance available, eligibility requirements, and permitted uses of the funds.

- [Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) Loan - Borrower Information Fact Sheet](#) provides details about when and where to apply. Applications will be accepted beginning Friday, April 3. It is recommended that parishes contact SBA approved lenders, preferably their own bank, which will make the application process easier. Parishes which plan to apply for PPP loans should contact Kathi Workman for current documentation of the parish's 501(c)(3) status.

- [Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) Loan - Borrower Application](#) provides details on the information needed to apply.

Please note that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan, the Economic Injury Disaster (EIDL) Loan, and the Employee-Retention Tax Credit appear to be the programs which provide the greatest amount of assistance, depending on the size of the parish. The Employee-Retention Tax Credit provides a refundable payroll tax credit for 50% of wages paid during a total or partial closure of a parish during the COVID-19 crisis (for up to $10,000 per employee). The programs are mutually exclusive, meaning a parish may only take advantage of one of these programs.

We encourage parishes to consider the various types of relief available and if possible, to consult with a tax attorney or other expert in making the best decision. Please contact either [the Rev. Canon Kim Karashin](#) or me with any questions or concerns.

Faithfully,

Kathi Workman, Canon Treasurer

kworkman@episcopalpgh.org

COVID-19 Resource Hub

We have established a committed page on the diocesan website for matters related to COVID-19.

Included here are letters from from Bishop McConnell, tools to help meet pastoral needs, prayer and liturgical resources for use at home, details on safety net programs, financial resources for parishes, and much, much more.

It's available at https://www.episcopalpgh.org/covid-19-resource-hub/. This is the fruit of not only our own work, but of shared resources across the Church in this time.

We will continue to keep this page updated. If you have a resource that you think would help others, please send it to info@episcopalpgh.org.

The Diocesan Office is Closed But...

Please know that the diocesan staff continues to be a resource for you. They may be working remotely, but they are very much at work and still can be reached through their office phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

The staff listing is available at www.episcopalpgh.org/who-we-are/bishop-and-staff/

Not sure who can best answer your question? Visit our "Whom to Contact" page at www.episcopalpgh.org/who-we-are/diocesan-staff-whom-to-contact/

Parish Administration & Finances Workshop
Saturday, April 25
9:30 a.m. to 12 noon
Via Zoom Webinar

Parish treasurers, administrators, senior wardens, and clergy - and anyone else interested in the management of church finances and other aspects of parish administration - are invited to attend this informative session. To register for this workshop, click the registration button.

Click Here to Register

Kathi Workman, our diocese's canon treasurer, and The Rev. Kimberly Karashin, canon for mission and director of administration, will serve as the workshop's facilitators, covering topics such as:

- Lay and clergy compensation and benefits
- Payroll
- Diocesan assessments
- Tax requirements
- Annual audit
- Parochial reports

- Property insurance and management
- Safeguarding requirements
- Available grant and loan programs

Ample time will be provided for questions and answers throughout.

The workshop will be held as a webinar using the Zoom Video Communications platform. For anyone without access to a computer or other Internet-enabled device, an option will be available to join by telephone. Details about how to join the webinar will be sent to registrants prior to the workshop. (Note: At this time, there are no plans for an in-person option.)

Bonus! All parishes with a representative participating in this workshop will receive a copy of the new Finance Resource Guide, a project of the Episcopal Church Foundation.

If you have questions about this workshop, or are wondering whether you should participate, contact Canon Kim at kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org or 412-721-0853 ext. 254.

All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to amuhl@episcopalpgh.org. When possible, the copy should be in a Word document and all original logos, pictures and artwork should be attached separately. Please be sure to include your contact information with any submission.