

CARES Act 2020 – Help For Churches!

Last week the CARES Act 2020 was passed by the Senate and House and then signed into law Friday afternoon by President Trump. This bill provides \$2 trillion in economic stimulus for the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus. Among the provisions is allotting \$350 billion to help small **businesses INCLUDING CHURCHES AND OTHER 501(c)3 NONPROFITS**. A specific component of the bill is the Payroll Protection Program which is intended is to help churches and qualifying organizations keep employees on the payroll receiving paychecks. It will provide funds to pay up to 8 weeks of payroll costs including some benefits. Since it provides 2.5 times a church's monthly payroll, it can also be used to pay interest on mortgage, rent and utilities.

Though it is being called a loan, the funds will be fully forgiven when used for its intended purpose. In other words, **it becomes a grant if you follow the specifics given for loan forgiveness**. **Please note the specifics of the loan so that you can comply with its guidelines**. There is no fee to apply for this. Applications can be received starting Friday, April 3.

The Small Business Administration is administering the Payroll Protection Plan **through local banks**. It is suggested that you give your congregation's bank a call and talk to them about it to make sure you have the right information to move forward in applying for this loan/grant.

For OFFICIAL information about the Payroll Protection Program and an application, go to U.S. Department of the Treasury and Small Business Administration

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses>

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>

Various church related organizations and ministries have sponsored webcasts during the last week to share information about the CARES Act, the Payroll Protection Plan, and how these apply to local congregations. Consider the links below as **secondary sources of information**. Please note **COGO Ministries is not vouching for the accuracy of the following summary sheets and recorded webcasts**. We are simply providing these links so that you have as much information as needed to understand the program and how to move forward with your application.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/sites/default/files/C3_COVID_EmergencyLoanGuide.pdf

Vanderbloemen <https://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/details-of-care-act>

Injoy <https://landing.injoystewardship.com/cares-act-church-resources>

Better Together,
Esther Cottrell and the COGO Ministries Staff