

It's for YOU

"I had imagined that there would be a mountain of paperwork and a time-consuming process that would not be worth the effort. A friend had applied and been approved for a grant the previous year and said the process was simple and strongly encouraged me to apply."

"Before I was able to receive the benefits of the Education Debt Relief Grant, I had student loans from three different sources. I am hugely appreciative of having \$7,000 taken off my shoulders so that now my debt only comes from one source. I truly feel that I will be able to focus more on ministry and be more adventurous in ministry when I have gotten rid of all my student debt."

"The grant of 10 percent of my student loan balance spring boarded us into a repayment schedule that was a little more robust, allowed another party to come in as a partner in financing, and the entirety will be paid in a year. We could not be more grateful and excited for the opportunities for saving that come when the burden of debt is eased."

"I am retired and disabled so at first, I didn't feel the program could help someone like me. But I was in a tough financial spot. And after my initial hesitation I was pleased by the welcome I received. The assistance I received relieved the financial crisis and greatly lowered my stress level."

For more info on MEF:

Contact Julie Nelson

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Ministerial Excellence Fund

Generosity in partnership with Lilly Endowment Inc.
and the Rocky Mountain Synod





This is for YOU! Educate, Equip, Enact
3E is a grant all rostered ministers and candidates can participate in.

Lilly 3E Grant Initiative 2020-2022

Grant Types	Grant Amounts	Grant Incentive	Maximum Possible	How often can I apply?
Education Debt Relief (seminary & undergraduate)	10% of student loan balance (2022: increase to 20%)	N/A	\$10,000	One-time (2022: eligible to re-apply)
Medical Debt Relief	Up to \$2,000	Raise up to \$1K, match up to \$1K (2022: waived)	\$4,000	Annually
Emergency Relief	Up to \$1,000	N/A	\$1,000	Annually

Additional information:

Education Debt Relief

- Rostered ministers and candidates in final categories (Approved and/or Approved & Assigned) are eligible
- Best suited for those on a standard repayment plan

Medical Debt Relief

- In 2022 only, 3E Emergency funds will be utilized to increase the maximum amount of grant.

Emergency Relief

- All possible avenues of alternative relief should be investigated and applied for, including use of personal savings and available credit.

To inquire:
[https://www.rmselca.org/
lilly-MEF-initial-inquiry](https://www.rmselca.org/lilly-MEF-initial-inquiry)

The Ministerial Excellence Fund is a sign of the partnership we share in ministry in the Rocky Mountain Synod. Funds have been contributed by generous congregations and individuals who understand that we share a common purpose, and that lifting the welfare of one lifts the welfare of all. Ministerial Excellence Fund grants help rostered ministers and candidates develop stronger financial literacy & management skills and provide direct aid to help reduce or eliminate crippling debt. This fund focuses on education debt relief, medical debt relief, and aids in dire circumstances. Leaders relieved of financial hardship increase their capacity and joy for healthy ministry. To learn more, go to <https://www.rmselca.org/Lilly-MEF-Apply>.