

Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Church Missional Board Parish and Community Development Committee

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

GRANTS

There are three grants categories available to local congregations through the Parish and Community Development Committee. The following is a brief description of each category, questions to be asked as you proceed, and information related to grants that are approved.

MULTI-CULTURAL/URBAN - Multi-Cultural/Urban grants are for ministries whose target group is characterized by their urban and/or a multi-cultural setting. Their purposes range from congregationally centered programs as well as programs in the community.

PARISH DEVELOPMENT - Parish Development grants are for ministries within the bounds of the local congregation.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES - Social Ministry grants are for justice work programs that may be held within the local church, but whose target group is outside the bounds of the local congregation. Social Ministry grants tend to focus on the community.

Grant applications are accepted throughout the year with a majority of applications received and reviewed in the fall of the year. Grants applications for the following year are to be post marked or delivered in hand by September 15th.

In preparing grant applications be as thorough as possible and assume the committee has no knowledge of the ministry, congregation, or community. In sharing the history and scope of the project please do not provide unnecessary information since too much information can cloud the process. Be as clear and concise as possible! Applicants are also encouraged to specify only one grant area.

For applications that have previously been awarded grants, and are re-applying, you will need to show evidence that:

- 1) the program that was funded is progressing as it was described in the original grant application
- 2) the money has been spent in the budget categories for which it was requested
- 3) there is progress toward sustainability when grant funding is no longer available
- 4) this program has impacted the community; and
- 5) the total number of people being served

Grants are made possible by the Shares of Ministry contributions made by every local congregation in the Susquehanna Conference. Ministries who are awarded grants will receive a check issued on a quarterly basis and not in a lump sum payment.

Guidelines for the use of Multi-cultural/Urban funds

Multi-Cultural/Urban funds are intended for those congregations and ministries that serve in an urban or culturally diverse setting. The intention is to concentrate these funds on those ministries whose primary focus is ethnically and culturally diverse groups and those in urban ministry settings.

Questions to be asked as you proceed:

What are the specific goals and purposes of this ministry?

Is the primary purpose of this ministry an ethnic or culturally diverse group of people?
Is this in an urban setting?
Who is the targeted ministry group? Is this group growing or declining?
What indigenous leadership is being used/fostered in the ministry setting?
What other areas of funding have been identified?
Is the ministry able to support itself financially?
Is there an active process in effect to work towards self-support?

Multi-Cultural/Urban Yearly Grant Award Schedule (new as of 2013)

Year 1 - 100% of award
Year 2 - 80% of year 1 award
Year 3 - 60% of year 1 award
Year 4 - 40% of year 1 award
Year 5 - 20% of year 1 award

Multi-Cultural/Urban grant awards are not automatic and must be applied for each year for the remaining allowable years.

Guidelines for the use of Parish Development funds

Parish Development funds are intended for those ministries within the bounds of the local congregation. Preference is given for those grant requests that exhibit evidence of a vital congregation.

Questions to be asked as you proceed:

Does the project move the congregation forward? Who is the targeted population?
Does the ministry internalize the efforts of the congregation, or does it promote connection with the local community?
What is the support of the local congregation? (volunteers, materials, finances)
What accountability procedures are in place to ensure grant funds are optimized?
What evaluative procedures are in place for ongoing project determination?
Have other funding sources have been sought?

Parish Development Grant Award Schedule (new as of 2013)

Year 1 - 100% of award
Year 2 - 75 % of year 1 award
Year 3 - 50% of year 1 award

Parish Development grant awards are not automatic and must be applied for each year for the remaining allowable years.

Guidelines for the use of Social Ministries funds

Social Ministry funds are intended for the ministries of congregations or agencies that reach outside the local parish. Stronger consideration is given to applications that demonstrate a vital relationship between a local congregation and community agencies/organizations.

Questions to be asked as you proceed.

Is there a clearly stated purpose? What are the expected results?
Does the designed purpose provide a definite Christian witness?
Are the needs served by other agencies? Is there duplication?
Is the project ecumenical?

What is the target population?
Does the design of the ministry include self-evaluation?
What evidence is there as to the results?
Is there accountability?
Is there local church support?
Have other funding sources have been sought?

Social Ministry Grant Award Schedule (new as of 2013)

Year 1 100% of award
Year 2 75 % of year 1 award
Year 3 50% of year 1 award

Social Ministry grant awards are not automatic and must be applied for each year for the remaining allowable years.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Parish and Community Development Committee is honored to read and review each application that fits the above guidelines and is approved by the District Superintendent. The Committee is excited to witness the ministry and mission that God is placing on the hearts of individuals and congregations within the Susquehanna Conference.

In a continued attempt to honor the connectional system of the United Methodist Church and the Susquehanna Conference, the Committee on Parish and Community Development in consultation with the Conference Cabinet has set a minimum standard as it relates to expected Shares of Ministries. In the area of Parish Development grants (Social Ministry and Multi-Cultural/Urban grants excluded) a minimum standard of ninety (90%) paid Shares of Ministry is expected for churches applying for grants.

Please be aware that as a general practice the Committee does not award grants for the following:

- Staffing and clergy salary and support
- Brick and mortar projects (building/remodeling)

One time start up grants (non-sustaining) may be awarded for technology needs when related to a new or enhanced ministry. Grants may be awarded to those applicants seeking funding for non-technology equipment (tables, shelving, files, etc.) on a limited basis

As you proceed with the application and questions arise please contact the Parish and Community Development Committee using the contact information found on the Grant application.