



LUTHERAN GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Program Summary

The purpose of the Lutheran Grant Program is to improve and support the health and vitality of the Lutheran community. The overarching goal of the Lutheran Grant Program is to provide grants that help Lutheran nonprofit organizations and those they serve achieve stronger economic security and sustainability.

Funding

Funding of these grants is provided by the Thrivent Financial Foundation (see “What is the Thrivent Financial Foundation” below). All grants are made at the sole discretion of the Foundation, and the Foundation may make exceptions in its granting and/or designate a specific cause or emphasis for more focused granting. A large number of grant requests are received each year through the Lutheran Grant Program. The Foundation cannot fund all of the many worthwhile proposals that are submitted.

To help you learn more about the program and walk you through the request process, this document includes:

- Specific guidelines and requirements of this program in a question and answer format.
- Grant proposal requirements and hints/tips.

What is the Thrivent Financial Foundation?

Founded in 1982, the Thrivent Financial Foundation operates exclusively for charitable, educational and religious purposes to help improve the health and vitality of Thrivent Financial’s key communities—the Lutheran community, the Fox Cities, Wisconsin, and the Twin Cities, Minnesota.

Grants are provided for projects and missions that reflect Thrivent Financial’s charitable interests. The primary charitable interest of the Foundation is the economic security and sustainability of nonprofit organizations and those they serve.

Mission

The Foundation will operate exclusively for charitable, educational and religious purposes to help improve the health and vitality of Thrivent Financial’s key communities.

Vision

Thrivent Financial Foundation grant programs will reflect the charitable interests of Thrivent Financial, its members, workforce and the needs of Thrivent Financial’s key communities.

Program Guidelines and Requirements

FAQs

Q. Who is eligible for grants through this program?

Lutheran nonprofit organizations that are exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code including Lutheran church bodies, judicatories and congregations.

NOTE: *Private foundations and individuals are not eligible for grants through this program. Organizations that have a current grant project active under this grant program are not eligible to apply for a new grant through this program until the final grant report has been submitted to the Thrivent Financial Foundation.*

Q. What determines if an organization is “Lutheran?”

The Lutheran identity of an organization is determined by at least one of the following criteria:

- The mission statement references a Lutheran connection.
- The by-laws of the organization stipulate that a majority of the governing board are “Lutheran.”
- “Lutheran” appears in the name.

Q. Can our organization apply for a grant when we are currently engaged in a grant project funded by the Lutheran Grant Program?

Organizations currently engaged in a grant project funded by the Lutheran Grant Program may not apply for another grant through this program until the final grant report has been submitted.

Q. What types of projects and expenses are not funded through the Lutheran Grant Program?

- Debt reduction or operating deficits.
- Capital costs involving the purchase of major equipment including technological equipment such as computers and associated software, furnishings, vehicles, facility construction or renovation.
- Consultation services, with the exception of feasibility studies.
- Publication costs.
- Projects that compromise Thrivent Financial Foundation’s neutral position in the Lutheran community, including lobbying or political activity of any kind.

Q. Is there a maximum project length?

Grant projects may not exceed two years.

Q. Is there a minimum or maximum amount of grant funds that will be awarded?

- The minimum grant amount is \$5,000.
- The maximum grant amount is \$100,000. Grant requests over \$25,000 must first complete a concept proposal.

NOTE: *Funding preference is given to Challenge Grant requests. Also we look favorably at project budgets which seek to minimize expenses such that the grant requested is under the maximum.*

Q. How do we access a grant application or concept proposal form?

These forms are obtained by completion of our online eligibility survey.

Q. What are the deadlines for submitting grant proposals?

Lutheran Grant Program proposals may be submitted at any time during the year.

Q. When will we be notified that we have or have not received funding?

Depending on the size and scope of the grant request, decisions will be communicated within eight weeks of receiving the proposal. During periods of high volume, the decision cycle may be extended. You will be notified if the decision cycle is extended.

Grant Proposal Tips and Requirements

- Take time to develop an achievable plan.
- Use the grant proposal form to present a compelling case for your proposal.
- Use succinct and easily understood writing to help gain consideration by grant reviewers.
- Keep in mind that the review of your proposal will start with these key questions:
 - 1.** Are the project goals reasonably stated, defined and measurable?
 - 2.** Does the project and organizational capacity lead toward security and long-term sustainability?
 - 3.** Are the revenue and expense line-item projections based on solid rationale and logic?
Remember that nongrant revenues must equal or exceed 25% of the total project expenses.
More favorable consideration is given when nongrant revenues total more than 25%

Submitting Your Grant Proposal–Attachments

Please email the following items along with the completed Lutheran Grant Program application to foundation@thrivent.com.

Financial information

- The organization's most recent financial statement (audited version if available) including a balance sheet, statement of activities (income statement) and cash flow statement.
- Organization budget for current year indicating actual to budget analysis.

Missional information

- Any strategic planning documentation.
- List of board members.
- Brief description of key staff and qualifications.

Questions?

If you have questions, you may contact the Foundation by email at foundation@thrivent.com.



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