



MISSION GRANT PROPOSAL HOW TO GET STARTED

Introduction

From the first grant in 1943 – \$15,000 to Christ Church for the Deaf in Cleveland – millions of dollars have been received to fund Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) Mission Grants.

Hundreds of these mission grants became realities because one LWML member or one LWML group learned of a mission need and made the effort to do something special – to submit a mission grant proposal to fund the project.

Each woman, each LWML group, is blessed to be a blessing to others by continuing to be aware of the close-at-hand mission needs in her community and writing mission grant proposals for them, as well as remembering LWML and district mission grants in prayer, and supporting them through Mite Box offerings.

The purpose of this document is to answer questions about LWML mission grants and the mission grants selection process, as well as assisting with developing a grant proposal, and offering helps and suggestions for strengthening Mite Box giving.

Mission Grant Proposals – How to Get Started

What Is the Important Ingredient in the LWML Mission Grants Program?

Faith ...

... that our constant prayers for grants are heard.

... that the Lord will bless our offerings.

We give thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
(LSB 781)

How Can I Become More Aware of Mission Grant Opportunities?

- Study a mission area of the world as part of your personal devotional and prayer time.
- Look for unique ministry projects in your community, particularly an activity, service, or need in your community that may be different from those in any other geographical area. Look for ministries to ethnic or immigrant groups, the homeless or neglected, the physically or mentally disabled, women or children, or the aged.
- Become involved in your community's special programs.
- Attend zone events and rallies, district conventions, and mission fairs. Invite mission speakers to meetings and be alert to their specific needs.
- Review the Mission Grants Bank, a listing of approved mission grant proposals that were not selected at the LWML convention. Request the Missions Grants Bank from your district president. The Missions Grant Bank is also available from the LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach. You can email her at depgo@lwml.org.

Other Resources Include:

- LCMS webpage: www.lcms.org
- LCMS Mission Priorities: www.lcms.org/how-we-serve
- Districts of the LCMS: www.lcms.org/districts
- Office of National Mission: www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national-mission
- Office of International Mission: www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/international-mission
- Directory for Recognized Service Organizations: www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/recognized-service-organizations
- Mission Service Opportunities: www.lcms.org/service
- International Regions: www.lcms.org/worldwide-regions
- Missionary Directory: www.lcms.org/missionarysupport
- International Partner Church Bodies: www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/international/partner-church-bodies

Who May Submit a Mission Grant Proposal?

Any LWML member, unit (group, zone, district), or a ministry from either the Office of International Mission, Office of National Mission, or Office of the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) may submit a grant proposal for consideration by the Mission Grants Selection Committee. The organizations and recipients being considered for an LWML Mission Grant must be sponsored by one of the above listed people who will act as the official submitter of the mission grant proposal.

How Do I Research an Idea for A Grant Proposal?

You may want to begin with these questions:

- Has this idea for a mission grant proposal for this need been given my prayerful consideration?
- What is the specific and current need?
- Is this an ongoing ministry?
- Does this ministry project have a documented and demonstrated record of service to its community?
- Can this specific need be met by my church group, zone, or district?
- Will meeting this need include sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Does this idea model the LWML standard of good mite stewardship?
- Does this idea reflect the vision and mission priorities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod?

How Can I Get More Help with Researching a Mission Grant Idea?

When you have identified a mission grant opportunity and researched the idea, contact and speak to key people involved with this program or activity. Document who you talk with and the dates.

Help from the following individuals will also be valuable toward a decision to make a mission grant proposal:

- LCMS District President of the district in which the recipient of the grant is located;
- LCMS Chief Mission Officer (LCMS.LWMLconnect@lcms.org);
- LWML District President; or
- LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach (depgo@lwml.org).

What Are the Criteria for a Mission Grant Proposal?

The Mission Grants Selection Committee will note whether:

- The grant is mission in emphasis and will share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- There is a governing unit, such as a partner church, LCMS district, or Recognized Service Organization (RSO) to which the ministry project regularly reports.
- The ministry has provided a financial statement or budget as part of the mission grant proposal.
- The ministry will be able to implement the project when funds are disbursed within the biennium in which they were voted upon or the one following.
- The ministry is ongoing in nature, with assurance of continuing after the grant monies have been expended.

How Do I Evaluate My Mission Grant Proposal Idea?

Put the idea to the following test, reviewing whether the mission project:

- Is mission-focused in its overall emphasis.
- Offers the ministry of the Word.
- Reflects the vision and mission priorities of the LCMS.
- Aligns with LCMS strategic objectives and operational plans.

Before Submitting a Mission Grant Proposal to LWML:

When you're ready to write your proposal go to the "Guidelines for Submitting a Mission Grant Proposal" available on the website. www.lwml.org/mission-grant-proposals

Important Notes:

Please submit the mission grant proposal electronically to the LWML by **August 15, 2020**.

The submitter will then be asked to send the grant proposal documents and confirmation email page to obtain approval and signatures of **both** the LWML District President and the LCMS District President for grants located within the United States.

For a ministry or service agency outside of the submitter's district (including a non-geographic RSO, for example) OR a ministry, service agency, or mission project outside of the United States, the submitter will need to email the grant proposal documents and photos to the LCMS Chief Mission Officer (currently Rev. Kevin D. Robson) at LCMS.LWMLconnect@LCMS.org; along with their contact phone number to allow the Chief Mission Officer (CMO) to follow up as needed. The CMO will review the grant proposal and will complete, sign, and return a Grant Proposal LCMS Review Form to both the LWML and the submitter.

If necessary, the submitter may request amendments be made to the electronic grant proposal submission by contacting the Vice President of Gospel Outreach by email (depgo@lwml.org) prior to submitting hard copies of the mission grant proposal.

Hard copies of the Mission Grant Proposal documents must be postmarked by September 30, 2020.

Additional information is available in the LWML Bylaws, Article XVII www.lwml.org/posts/handbook-resources/lwml-bylaws and the LWML Handbook, Section D www.lwml.org/posts/handbook-resources/national-mission-grants.