

# Partnership Grants



**Northern Illinois District**  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

## Introduction

*Partnership Grants* are normally in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000 though that is flexible. Their purpose is to assist your ministry organization in accomplishing ministry initiatives consistent with the mission and vision of the district: *Filled with living hope in Christ, Confessing, Praising, and Advancing His Kingdom*. District staff will partner with you throughout the process of planning and implementing your new initiative.

The process is outlined below. There is no "grant cycle" — applications are considered when received. You can expect it will take about two months from the time you submit your request until final determination.

- \_\_\_1. Pray about your idea with others in your congregation. Discuss your idea with appropriate district staff. (Use "Right Questions" below to help facilitate that discussion.)
  
- \_\_\_2. Complete the grant application and submit it to the to the district office ([Kris.Whitby@nidlcms.org](mailto:Kris.Whitby@nidlcms.org)) or mail to LCMS Northern Illinois District, 1107 Monroe Ave., River Forest, IL 60305).
  
- \_\_\_3. The district will inform you of the decision.
  
- \_\_\_4. Grant funds will be reimbursed upon submission of supporting receipts.
  
- \_\_\_5. Required follow-up should begin within 30 days of the start of your initiative.

## Right Questions

Goals are achieved when the right questions are asked. The right questions usually lead us to right answers and actions. We encourage your pastor and planning team to work through these questions together.

Q1 - What prompted you to think about and plan this initiative?

Q2 - How will this initiative focus on advancing His Kingdom rather than drawing Christians from other worshipping communities?

Q3 - What is your plan for intentionally building relationships with people through this initiative (learning to know people, not only providing them a service)?

Q4 - How will you make Word, Wellness, or Witness an integral, foundational aspect of this initiative?

Q5 - How will you know whether this initiative is successful?

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**FURTHER ANALYSIS:** It is important to know the unique characteristics of the people that will be impacted by your initiative. These questions will help you think through and assess whether the initiative you are proposing is in alignment with the needs of the people you're trying to impact.

Q8 - What are the top 3 "people segments" you are trying to impact and the characteristics of each? (Contact our Lutheran Church Extension Fund District Vice-President, Vanda Toner, or Sue Green at the district office for assistance answering this question.)

Q9 - What are the greatest perceived needs of these people segments, and how can your church address one or more of the needs as part of your church's overall vision?

Q10 - What is your plan for communicating with leadership about needs you're trying to address and ways of working together to meet those needs?

Q11 - Who are all the potential partners or donors who might align with you? (Consider resources outside your church and community as well as those within.)

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## Grant Application

Organization Name:	Date Application Submitted:
Address, City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	E-mail:
Primary Contact's Name (include phone/email if not same as above):	
NID Staff Working with You:	Amount of Funding Requested:
Title of Initiative:	Start Date/Duration of Initiative:

Please describe your project and grant request in a document of 2 pages or less. Include the following information:

1. Specific goal of this initiative.
2. Describe your plan for building relationships through this initiative.
3. Describe the process by which you intend to develop leaders for this initiative.
4. Describe your communication plan for this initiative.
5. List other congregations, ministries, neighborhood organizations, community businesses, etc., that will be working with you on this initiative. What is their potential involvement?
6. What is your financial plan for using the grant funds?
7. Describe the plans you have to help ensure financial sustainability for continuing this initiative.

**Submit copies of your completed application** to the district office (Kris.Whitby@nidlms.org or LCMS Northern Illinois District, 1107 Monroe Ave, River Forest, IL 60305).

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Signature of Congregation Pastor

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## Required Grant Follow-up

A requirement for receiving a Partnership Grant is the commitment that you will provide follow-up reporting to the district office. The information below **MUST** be returned to the district office.

*All information, quotes and photos will be received by the district as permission to share. (Church assumes responsibility for requesting permission from individuals.)*

Email to **office@nidlcms.org**. Be sure to note it as grant follow-up.

- \_\_\_1. Submit a brief written report itemizing:
  - a. How grant funds were used
  - b. Progress on the goal stated in your grant application
  - c. How you will follow up on connections made
  
- \_\_\_2. Provide photographs taken in connection with the initiative (submit large file size, digital photos) as soon as ministry is underway.
  
- \_\_\_3. Provide "stories" (at least one) related to the initiative, as ministry is underway, such as:
  - Direct quotes/comments from volunteers and/or those benefiting from the initiative
  - Narrative description of a life impacted by the initiative
  - News item for sharing at NIDnews.org, in *Our* magazine, or NID social media  
(must include quote and/or life impact)
  
- \_\_\_4. We encourage you to post your activities on social media in real time ***with share capability***. Be sure that you have liked or joined with the district's social media so we can re-share. People want to hear what is happening in initiatives.

**Please note:** Submit a brief email (or typewritten) update after **six months from grant approval** on status of the initiative if above report has not already been submitted.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of person responsible for follow-up reporting

\_\_\_\_\_ Email contact for person doing follow-up

*If you have any questions about follow-up please contact Pastor Kris Whitby at [kris.whitby@nidlcms.org](mailto:kris.whitby@nidlcms.org)*

*Note: Partnership grants may be eligible for two additional renewals, subject to District approval.*