



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

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 and 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 these guidelines 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.

Who May Submit a Mission Grant Proposal?

Any LWML member, unit (group, zone, district), or mission board 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 acts 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?
- 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 fit in the vision 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. Help from the following individuals will also be valuable toward a decision to make a mission grant proposal:

- Executive Director of LCMS Office of International Mission.
- Executive Director of LCMS Office of National Mission.
- LCMS District Executive of the district in which the recipient of the grant is located.
- LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach.
- LWML District President.
- Missionaries serving in your area or who have recently returned from the mission field.

What Are the Criteria for a Mission Grant Proposal?

The Mission Grants Selection Committee will note whether:

- The grant will share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- There is a governing unit, such as a partner church, LCMS district, or Recognized Service Organization to which the ministry project regularly reports.
- The ministry has provided a financial statement as part of its mission grant proposal.
- There is specific or continuing partnering for the project from other sources.
- There is assurance that the project is able to sustain service to its constituency following completion of this grant.

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.
- Has the approval of the LCMS District President or Mission Executive, when the project is situated in your district. A signature will be required on the grant form.
- Is in agreement with the LCMS. Contact with the LCMS Chief Mission Officer (CMO) is required when the project is located outside the United States. Contact through LCMS office should be documented with date of contact. When you're ready to write your proposal go to the "Guidelines for Submitting a Mission Grant Proposal" available on the website.

Addition information is available in the LWML Bylaws and the LWML Handbook both available on the LWML website located www.lwml.org/bylaws. Also available, on the LWML website are the Mission Grant Guidelines at www.lwml.org/mission-grant-proposals.