

Opportunity Endowment Fund Grant Application Guidelines

Opportunity Endowment Fund's Grant Mission Statement

The mission of outreach at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church is the embodiment of our church mission – Living Our Name With Passion and Purpose. Through the Opportunity Endowment Fund we will model the love of Christ by helping the underserved, the disadvantaged, and others struggling with life's circumstances. The Opportunity Endowment Fund supports initiatives and organizations that provide emotional and spiritual support. Funding is targeted toward Christian programs in the greater Houston area where we can make a meaningful impact. We will also seek opportunities for members of Christ the Servant to build relationships through hands-on involvement in the initiatives we fund.

Opportunity Endowment Fund's Priorities

We will give priority to ministries that have many or all of these characteristics:

- Are faith based or non-profit,
- Where we can make a meaningful impact
- Bring about systemic change for children, families, disadvantaged and underserved
- Provide basic needs such as food, clothing, education and shelter or the means to provide basic needs for oneself
- Serve these geographic areas with outstanding grants;
 - Local – 50% to 100%
 - Domestic – 0% to 25%
 - International – 0% to 25%
- Have involvement of Christ the Servant's members.

Opportunity Endowment Fund Does Not Provide Grants for:

- Funding of normal operations of the congregation or synod,
- Political purposes either directly or indirectly,
- Government agencies,
- Coverage of past operating deficits or debts.
- Institutions or organizations with known governance issues.

Types of Support

Grants are made for the following purposes:

- Project or program support,
- Matching grant,
- Capacity building grant to further expand an agency's effectiveness,
- Evangelism,
- Physical and emotional well-being of the underserved,
- Collaborative effort funding

Types of Support (continued)

- Doesn't exclude general operating funds, but prefers project/areas that are measurable
- Term of commitment will be a maximum of two years with an option to extend term annually.

Eligibility

Grant Application, Deadlines, and Process

Request for a grant application should be made to an Opportunity Endowment Fund Committee member. Applicants must submit a completed Christ the Servant Grant Application to be considered for grant funding. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. The Opportunity Endowment Fund Committee meets monthly; decisions regarding applications are communicated directly to the applicant as soon as possible following regular Committee meetings.

Grant Follow Up Form

Each grant recipient shall resubmit a report describing the progress made and/or milestones achieved in furtherance of the purposes of the grant. The Opportunity Endowment Fund Committee will provide further instructions once the grant is made.

Commitment to Informed Grant-making

Christ the Servant performs due diligence on all grant applicants to assure the grant will be effective. Christ the Servant takes into consideration not only the written application, but also the results of any interviews and visits. After a grant is awarded, grantees are required to provide documentation about the project's fulfillment/completion.

Not All Projects Can Be Funded

Christ the Servant has the responsibility for the final approval of each grant. Since Christ the Servant receives funding requests that far exceed our grant budgets, we cannot fund every worthy project. A decision not to fund a proposal does not reflect on the merits of the proposal or the applicant's organization.