

Church of the Foothills - Outreach and Benevolence Board

Information and Criteria for 2022 Grants

"Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work."

~ Mother Teresa

General Information

The Outreach and Benevolence Fund (the Fund) is administered by the Outreach and Benevolence (O&B) Board of Church of the Foothills. The O&B Board invites and reviews grant applications, interviews the applicant representative(s) or the applicant's Church of the Foothills supporter(s) and recommends appropriate applications to the Church Council. Allocations are reviewed and adjusted annually.

Decisions regarding the distribution of the Fund are made through a thoughtful process of discernment and stewardship. Grants will be awarded to support programs that meet the criteria of the O&B themes, congregation priorities, and other eligibility requirements.

Eligibility Criteria to Apply for a Grant

- A. Must be an approved non-profit organization or public agency (e.g. school)
- B. Proposals meet at least one of the following categories:
 - 1. Compassionate charity — focus on life sustaining needs
 - 2. Empowerment or enhancement of human dignity — foster enhanced self-worth and self-reliance while facilitating pathways out of unproductive circumstances
 - 3. Structural change — promote long-term social and economic change by analyzing and addressing the reasons for injustice and advocating for change
- C. Funding advances at least one of the following themes:
 - 1. Liberating the oppressed and suffering
 - 2. Promoting economic justice — support access and opportunity for all groups of people and a more equitable distribution of resources, including advocacy for legislation and other support issues of economic justice
 - 3. Caring for the earth — promote respect and protect god's creation through actions ranging from personal and congregational projects to advocacy and support for local, regional and international change
- D. Connection with Church of the Foothills - the applicant must be supported or sponsored by a member of the church

Criteria for Awarding Grants

Applicants and interviews will be evaluated using the criteria below:

- A. Categories for Social Justice - an effort will be made to award grants in balanced proportion among the following categories:
 - 1. Compassionate charity
 - 2. Empowerment or enhancement of human dignity
 - 3. Structural change

- B. Outreach and Benevolence Themes - Does the organization address one or more of the following themes:
 - 1. Liberating the oppressed and suffering
 - 2. Promoting economic justice
 - 3. Caring for the earth
- C. Populations in greatest need - Does the organization address the needs of the poor and outcast, the marginalized and the unpopular causes, whether they are local or global?
- D. Stewardship of Resources - Is the organization's fiscal framework and governance structure established? If you have received an O&B grant in the past, you must demonstrate appropriate use of past funding in accordance with grant stipulations.
- E. Connection with Church of the Foothills - does the organization have a relationship or sponsor within the Church of the Foothills?
- F. Application and Interview - Is the application complete? Did the organization participate in an interview? (This is a requirement for first-time applicants.)
- G. Special Circumstances - The O&B Board has the discretion to award funding to projects and/or organizations that do not fully meet the stated criteria

Application Process Timeline

A. Application Materials

Applications and information about the grant process will be on the Church's website beginning September 17, 2021.

B. Submission Deadline

Applications are due by 11:00 a.m. Monday, November 29, 2021.

Electronic submissions are preferred and can be sent to:

admin@foothillschurchinventura.com

However, hard copies are accepted by mail or hand delivery to the church office.

The Board may not require annual applications from core, partner organizations each year; however, a new application will be required every three years.

C. Interviews

Interview will be held with **new** applicant organizations in December.

The interview can be with the church sponsor or organization representative. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these interviews will be by phone or other digital means.

D. Grant Awards

Approvals will be announced in December and final grant award amounts will be announced in January after approval of the church budget.

E. Information Sharing

Grant recipients may be invited to briefly share information about their organization during a Sunday church service once it is safe to do so during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for church members to meet the organization's representatives and learn about their program.