

NEW JERSEY SYNOD FUND FOR MISSION

Criteria for Grants

Every year the New Jersey Synod Fund for Mission uses investment income to provide resources for special mission needs that might otherwise go unmet.

In order to determine grant recipients, the Fund's Management Committee receives proposals from Synod Teams/Task Groups, Mission Clusters/Districts, Congregations, Officers, and Synod Council. These proposals are evaluated, and recommendations are made to the Synod Council for funding. As it makes decisions, the Management Committee is guided by the following criteria (proposals need not meet every criterion):

1. The proposed program shall be one that could not normally be funded by the operating budget of the Synod or ELCA Churchwide Ministries, or by the agency for whom the grant is sought.
2. Preference is given for initiating new mission ventures: providing seed money and/or leveraging other funds for mission.
3. Preference is given to projects having a direct relationship to the urban character of the Synod.
4. Preference is given to projects that are inclusive and reflect our core value of diversity.
5. Preference is given to projects that address the needs of the disadvantaged, especially the poor, mentally and physically challenged, and the powerless.
6. Preference is given to projects that enable the Synod to develop new ministries to meet needs occasioned by societal change.
7. Preference on Music-Musician Grants will be for music school students who play organ or piano in congregations, thereby gaining practical experience, as well as for unique music resources, workshops and programs.

Grant recipients will be requested to provide a report on their respective projects to the Fund for Mission Management Committee by September 1 of the year following receipt of the funds.

The deadline for receipt of grant requests to be considered is August 31st annually. Payment will be made following Synod Council approval in late fall.