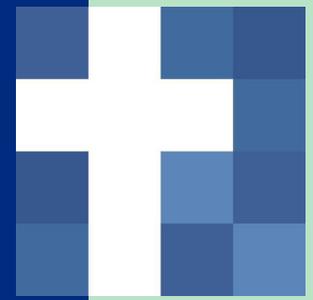


**"I AM ABOUT TO DO
A NEW THING;
NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH,
DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?**

**I WILL MAKE A WAY
IN THE WILDERNESS
AND RIVERS IN THE
DESERT."**

ISAIAH 43:19

MAY 2020



SPIRIT OF THE GRANT

Make disciples who recognize the needs of their community and are encouraged to respond with creativity and a passion to serve.

Equip leaders with the resources to be imaginative in outreach within evolving public health guidelines.

Strengthen parishes through original projects that reach beyond our church buildings and address the needs of our community in this time.

Launch new and adaptable ways for the people of Northwestern Ohio to be in community.

All applicants should imagine the needs of their community through these four lenses.



ELIGIBILITY

Any congregation, individual or community organization that is in relationship with a faith community in Northwestern Ohio is welcome to develop a proposal, either independently, or in partnership with other individuals or ministries.

**FOR THE RENEWAL OF
NORTHWESTERN OHIO,
AND THE WORLD.**

THE CALL

Being the church in this time provides a new opportunity to use our creativity to share the Good News with our communities. This time of physical distancing and disruption to the former patterns of our lives calls for innovation. As people of faith we are called into mission, defined by hope and tenacity, to support our neighbor and be of service to each other.

This call is for community members to imagine outreach that goes beyond the walls of our churches and into the community. In a time where we are tempted to turn inward, the spirit of our mission calls us to reach out.

In recognition of the Year of Mission, the Northwestern Ohio Synod is excited to provide the resources to support and equip innovative proposals for the renewal of Northwestern Ohio and the world.

THE PURPOSE

These microgrants are intended to offer support and resources to individuals, congregations and organizations with the desire to engage in an original community-based project that uniquely meets a need of their community, encourages social engagement and furthers the gospel.

These grants are not intended to sustain current outreach, but rather to plant new and needed engagement with the community. Funding may be used to assist a currently operating program to innovate and meet an identified need in a new and creative way.

Applications should take current public health guidelines into consideration.



INTENTIONAL INVESTMENT

CATEGORIES OF CARE

Food Insecurity and Poverty



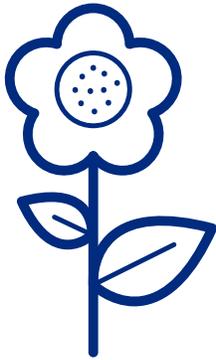
The past several months have exacerbated the effects of injustices such as food deserts and economic inequality in our communities. Christ calls us to feed, clothe, welcome, visit and walk with our neighbor. How do we participate in God's mission to care for our neighbor and fix unjust systems?

Mental Health



Christ calls us to life abundantly. Supporting the mental health of our people is crucial. How do we help folks live life abundantly right now?





Youth and Families

Equipping leaders begins with empowering young people to learn and grow. What are the needs of the young people in your context? How should the church be enriching the youngest minds, bodies and souls who live in our communities?



Community Endurance

We are in the middle of running the race set before us. What is the race being run in your community? What support does your community need to endure? How do we look beyond the walls of our parishes to care for all of our people?



SEEDING FUTURE-ORIENTED GIVING

A Cooperative Funding Structure has made the funding for these microgrants possible. Personal contributions have been made by Synod Staff and Council, Synod resources have been dedicated by Synod Council, and congregations and individual donors have also joined in the generosity. Each awardee will be asked to prayerfully consider how in the future they may aspire to join in this generosity and give back to the Renewal Fund. Microgrant recipients are asked to aspire to give back at least 10% of the grant monies awarded in the year following the completion of their proposed project. This donation could be provided by donors within the awardee's community inspired by the impact of their project, by a fundraiser they organize, or by funds that the awardees have the ability designate. A concern over being able to donate back to the fund should not deter any individual or organization from proposing their project and does not have any bearing on eligibility.



REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

Applicants can submit requests for specific amounts of money to fund proposals up to, but not exceeding, \$1500. The Synod Council has established the Renewal Fund and approved the processes by which grants are awarded. The Executive Committee is responsible for the approval of the Advisory Team which has the final decision on amounts awarded. This process is subject to review by the Synod Council or its Executive Committee.

ADVISORY TEAM

Proposals are reviewed and microgrants are awarded by the Advisory Team. This team will represent our geographic and community diversities, with members involved in parishes from all seven conferences. At least one member of the team will be a young person. One member will be a TEEM candidate.

- Synod Staff Member
- Synod Council Member
- Lay (Suburban)
- Lay (Rural)
- Lay (Urban)
- Retired Pastor
- Deacon



PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

The Advisory Team members will function as guides to personally correspond with applicants, assisting them in creatively thinking through the practical implementation of their proposal. Advisory Team members will collaboratively approve proposals as they are received and provide guidance as they see fit. If there is any question that a proposal does not meet the guidelines of the initiative or is impractical after further guidance, it will be discussed by the team in a weekly Zoom call. All actions (approval and guidance) will be brought before the whole Advisory Team for review awardees are notified.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRANT RECIPIENTS



Ensure imagined proposal meets the guidelines outlined above. Submit proposal via electronic application on Formstack or call the (419) 260-3645 for non-digital accommodations.



Respond to any Advisory Team requests for additional information regarding your application. Advisory Team members serve as guides through the process and are helpful in dreaming about how a specific proposal could be carried out.



After receiving confirmation and the designated funds, share your plans with your network! Use the hashtag #NWOSrenewal.



Initiate the outreach project, being sure to begin within two weeks of receiving the funds. If a particular circumstance makes this difficult, an inquiry should be submitted to the Advisory Team in advance. Funds must be used by December 31, 2020. Document and share the process of your project with your network as you go, posting pictures and updates while continuing to use the hashtag #NWOSrenewal on social media.



Upon completion of your project, submit a report recapping the project and its impact. Guidelines for this short reporting process will be sent when grants are awarded. Photos and videos with permission for publication by Synod are encouraged. For projects that continue beyond 2020, a one-year impact follow-up will be helpful. Celebrate with your community and lift up the impact through your communication efforts.



Unused funds must be returned to the Renewal Fund to be used for future microgrants.



Each awardee will be asked to prayerfully consider how in the future they will be able to join in the Cooperative Funding Structure and give back to the grant fund being created by aspiring to donate least 10% of the grant monies awarded in the year following the completion of the proposed project.

TIMELINE



Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning on Tuesday, May 5th and will continue to be accepted as long as resources allow.



Applicants will receive notice of the status of their grants beginning Tuesday, May 19th on a weekly rolling basis, as long as grant funding permits.



Applicants should expect two weeks for proposal review and should respond promptly to any communication and guidance from Advisory Team members.



Projects must be initiated no later than two weeks after receiving grant funding.



Funding should be spent by December 31, 2020 unless special circumstances are approved. Unused funds should be returned to the synod upon completion.



Leaders of grant-funded projects are required to follow up with project summary and storytelling review within two weeks of project completion.



Any projects that extend beyond the short-term proposal will receive a call one year later for continued storytelling and celebration.



Within one year of project completion, grant recipients are encouraged to prayerfully consider a gift of at least 10% of their original award, to grow the Renewal Fund.

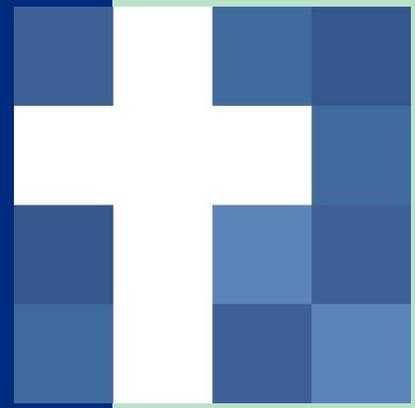
**FUNDING MISSIONAL
INNOVATION IN OUR
PARISHES FOR THE
RENEWAL OF
NORTHWESTERN OHIO,
AND THE WORLD.**

ISAIAH 43:19



Imagining
RENEWAL

Microgrants



CONTACT

GRANTS@NWOS-ELCA.ORG

(419) 260-3645