



Northern Illinois District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Assistant to the President – Mission and Ministry
LCMS Northern Illinois District
1107 Monroe Ave. River Forest, IL 60305

KINGDOM EXPANSION TOGETHER GRANT

Introduction

The Kingdom Expansion Together Fund has been established by the LCMS Northern Illinois District's Board of Directors (BOD) in order to reinvest stewardship gifts and offerings entrusted to the LCMS Northern Illinois District (NID) back into churches, schools, and ministries of the NID, as well as the NID itself, with the focus of reaching new people with the Gospel of Christ. Grant proposals may be submitted by NID congregations, schools, preschools, circuits, Recognized Service Organizations, associations, and the NID office.

KINGDOM EXPANSION TOGETHER GRANT REQUEST GUIDELINES

While the focus of the Kingdom Expansion Together Fund is outreach, it is designed to cover a variety of mission areas for our churches, schools, and ministries. **Grant proposals may be submitted for consideration in the following ministry areas:**

- **Word Grants** – Equipping Servants & Leaders [Target: existing congregations, schools, and ministries]

These grant proposals will be utilized to provide training and equipping of church workers and laity in their service as witnesses of the Gospel to people new to the ministry of an NID ministry. This grant may also be used for future church worker experiences at the District office.

- **Wellness Grants** – Care Enhancement/Expansion [Target: existing congregations, schools, ministries, and the NID at large]

These grants will expand the services and care provided by the NID through the following:

- The Church Worker Care Team
- The NID Wellness Committee and Wellness Support Staff
- Wellness retreats for church workers
- Wellness programs at churches, schools, and ministries for their church worker staff and families
- Support for church workers through such resources as Soldiers and Veterans of the Cross

- **Witness Grants** – [Target: existing and future ministries]

These grants may be utilized for the following mission expansions:

New Starts Initiatives: Congregations and partnerships (circuits, multi-parish endeavors, etc.) who seek to plant new churches, preaching stations, a new community outreach ministry launch, etc.

New Believers Initiatives: Congregations, schools, and ministries which are expanding their current ministries to reach more people with the Gospel

Mission Target Initiatives: The Mission Target Grant will now be a subset of the Kingdom Expansion Together Fund. Ministries may still submit proposals as a Mission Target Initiative which request up to 30% of an outreach expanded staff position's salary be funded for a three-year period, provided that ministry works with the Assistant to the President on annual stewardship goals to find pathways to sustain the expanded ministry.

Grant proposals will not be considered for the following:

- Grants to foundations or other grant-making institutions or organizations
- Grants issued to an individual
- Grants for capital expansion projects or building maintenance
- Grants to reduce or pay off institutional debt
- Grants not keeping with the goals of the LCMS Northern Illinois District
- Grants that do not conform to our confession of faith

Grants will be awarded utilizing the following procedure:

All grant proposals will be submitted to the Assistant to the President – Mission and Ministry for processing.

Grant proposals \$1000 - \$10,000 are available year-round. Proposals in this range will be internally reviewed and awarded by the NID staff. Grant funds at this level of support must be utilized within a 12-month period from the date of the award. No more than 25% of any one year's grant total amount of the Kingdom Expansion Together fund will be made available at this level without BOD approval.

Grant proposals \$10,000 - \$25,000 are available year-round. Proposals in this range will be reviewed by the Kingdom Expansion Together Committee. They will make recommendations to the Northern Illinois District's Board of Directors. The BOD will then award the grant funds. Grant funds at this level of support must be utilized within an 18-month period from the date of the award.

Grant proposals \$25,000+ are to be submitted by August 15th of each year. The proposal will be initially reviewed by the NID staff. Further review will be completed by the Kingdom Expansion Together Committee. They will make recommendations to the Northern Illinois District's Board of Directors. The BOD will make Kingdom Expansion Together awards in excess of \$25,000 at the Board of Directors fall meeting. Grant

funds at this level of support must be utilized within a 36-month period from the date of the award.

- All grant applications generated by NID staff will be given to the NID's Board of Directors for their review and award decision.
- The award of a grant in no way implies continuing support. Applicants to the Kingdom Expansion Together Fund may reapply for continuing support at the end of each grant's award cycle. No grant may be renewed more than twice after the initial award, for a maximum total of three successive awards per grant proposal.
- Pastoral and congregational engagement with, and participation in, the greater work of the Northern Illinois District will factor into prioritization given to grant proposals. Disengagement with circuit and District activity may result in denial of grant proposals. See item #9 of the grant application for the definitions of engagement and participation.
- All grants from the Kingdom Expansion Together Fund will be receipt-based grants. As grant recipients submit grant-related receipts to the Assistant to the President – Mission and Ministry, a reimbursement check will be sent to the grant recipient from the NID's Business Office. All funds will be available to the grant recipient upon grant award notification. Under special circumstances, a grant advance may be considered by the NID staff.
- Grant recipients are encouraged to develop a broad base of support for the longevity of their ministry.
- At the end of the granting period, any unused grant funds will be reallocated back to the Kingdom Expansion Together Fund to support other grant applications.
- Recipients must submit an annual progress report on their proposal (noting fulfillment of mission targets, celebration points, where future support is needed, and stated goals for the following year of ministry) to the Assistant to the President – Mission and Ministry. A final report is to be submitted in the last year of the grant's cycle. The final report should describe the work done, evaluate the proposal in terms of its specific objectives, and give a financial accounting for how the grant funds were expended.
- A maximum of three grant proposals for all NID grants per year may be submitted by any one ministry.
- Grant recipients will publicly acknowledge the support they have received from the Kingdom Expansion Together Fund in a manner agreed upon by the Assistant to the President – Mission and Ministry. The NID, through its Communications Office, will also publicize all grants under the directives of the NID's Office of the President.
- This granting document will be reviewed and updated by the Board of Directors annually by their last calendar year meeting with input from NID staff and the Kingdom Expansion Together Committee. (Revised January 2025)

APPLICATION FOR KINGDOM EXPANSION TOGETHER GRANT

1. Date of Application: _____
2. Name of Project: _____
3. Originating Entity: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____
Website: _____
4. Director: _____
Email: _____ Cell #: _____
5. Project Coordinator: _____
Email: _____ Cell#: _____
6. Project Begin Date: _____ End Date: _____
7. Project Total Cost Estimate: _____
(Attach proposed budget and supporting quotes, as applicable)
8. Funding Amount Requested from NID: _____
9. Pastoral and/or Lay Leadership participation in Synod, District, and Circuit activity in the past three years:
Pastoral Circuit Mtg (last attended, annual frequency): _____
Pastor Conferences (last attended:) Regional _____, General _____
District Convention: year last attended _____
Voting Lay Delegate _____ Voting Pastor _____
Advisory Lay Delegate _____
Year of last statistical report submitted to Synod: _____
10. Describe the project. (Feel free to answer this and the following questions on separate pages to give the grant reviewers a clear picture of your proposal, what you are trying to accomplish, how your project fits the mission of your ministry and of the NID, how you intend to make your proposal a reality, how your proposal will change your current ministry.)
11. What is the goal of your proposal? How did you arrive at this goal?
12. What are the specific objectives of your proposal? What are the short and long-term outcomes you expect from your proposal? How will you measure and evaluate those outcomes?
13. What is your plan of action to accomplish your proposal objectives?

14. How is this proposal significant to your ministry? Who will benefit from it?
15. Will you need future funding? If so, how do you propose you will obtain it?
16. Submit your proposed budget along with your current ministry's financial commitment to your proposal.

For NID Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Disposition: _____

(Revised January 2025)