

Zion Benevolences Fund

Grant Policies

Check that your request complies with all grant policies before proceeding with an application.

We are committed to being exceptional stewards of charitable funds entrusted to us by donors. If your organization is applying for a grant from Zion Lutheran Church's Benevolence Fund the following policies apply.

Grants

Grants awarded by Zion's Benevolence Fund range from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and are usually intended for a single, short term purpose. They are typically not awarded for items or programs usually included as part of ongoing operating revenue or expenses of an organization.

Deadlines

Grant requests should be received by Zion's Benevolence Fund twice a year, April 1st and August 1st^t. Address; 1254 Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166.

Organizations Eligible to Receive Grants

Organizations eligible to receive grants from Zion's Benevolence Fund are those determined by the IRS to be public charities and;

- a. which provide community services to residents of the Shawano area, or
- b. which are entities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with relationship with its members in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, including congregations, church camps, foreign missionaries, and social services agencies.

This encompasses most charitable, scientific, social service, educational and religious organizations described in § 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) of the tax code. Zion's Benevolence Fund will not normally make grants to private non-operating foundations. Grants for community services may also be made to units of government (this includes Native American tribal governments) for public purposes. Organizations that are not public charities may apply through a fiscal sponsor. Additional eligibility requirements may apply to units of government and schools, see below.

Eligibility for Units of Government {city, county, township, etc.}

Zion's Benevolence Fund will consider funding for units of government when the request for support is judged to be an effective means to address a priority issue. A grant from the Zion's Benevolence Fund may help draw attention to a new issue, leverage additional funding, offer more flexible funds than are typically available in a governmental budget or provide seed money until program funding can be included in the governmental budget.

Eligibility for Schools

The Zion's Benevolence Fund will consider funding for public, charter and private/parochial Pre-K-12 schools and post-secondary educational institutions, when the request for support is judged to be an effective means to address a priority issue, particularly when the issue addresses underserved portions of the community. Requests will only be considered if they are unique and community-oriented, or for pilot programs with potential to be sustainable and replicable.

Faith-Based Funding

For Shawano community requests the Zion Benevolence Fund will consider funding for programs, services or initiatives that address unmet human needs through non-sectarian organizations or collective efforts of faith-based organizations that draw support from the community at large to meet a demonstrated community need.

Controversial Grants

The Fund will consider whether any potential grant might be controversial, divisive in the community or have potential to alienate donors. When requests of this nature are received, the Fund will determine if the controversial stance is important enough, if its impact will be profound enough, and/or if it will do enough community good to justify the Fund staking its credibility and reputation on it. Each request will be considered with great care on a case-by-case basis.

Requests for Progress Reports

The Zion's Benevolence Fund takes seriously its role of stewardship and cares deeply about the impact of awarded funds. All requested progress or final reports will be diligently reviewed with Zion committee members and used to improve our understanding of charitable organizations and their outcomes, and/or to set future grant making direction. As such, organizations with past-due or incomplete grant reports will be ineligible to apply for additional funding from the Zion's Benevolence Fund until the requested report(s) is received and accepted.

Declined Applications

The Zion Benevolence Fund reserves the right to decline a request if it does not meet eligibility requirements or grant guidelines or for some other reasons as it determines. All decisions to decline a grant are made at the sole discretion of the Fund and may not be appealed.

Capital Investments

In general, the Zion's Benevolence Fund will not consider grant requests solely related to real estate, bricks and mortar, or other capital expenditures that are not directly related to program delivery, service to clients or organizational capacity building, given the substantial funding normally associated with such initiatives and the Zion's Benevolence Fund's relatively limited resources for unrestricted grant making. The Zion's Benevolence

Fund will, however, consider grant requests for capital projects or capital programs, if such initiatives are expected to significantly enhance the quality of life in the Shawano area, and are clearly aligned with the Funds mission, The Fund will apply established guidelines in assessing capital grant requests on a case-by-case basis, but reserves the right to consider any criteria that it believes is prudent.

Grant applications for small capital items that are directly related to program delivery or service to clients, such as a refrigerator for a food pantry, signage for a nature trail, or new technology will also be considered. Examples of requests that do not fall within consideration as small capital items include office furniture, health and safety equipment including automatic external defibrillators (AEDs), smoke detectors, or security systems, and playground equipment.

Fundraising Activities

The Zion's Benevolence Fund's grant programs will not support annual fund drives, fund-raising events or endowment-building campaigns.

Previously Incurred Expenses

The Zion's Benevolence Fund will consider funding requests only for programs or services that have not yet occurred. Organizations must submit requests with sufficient lead time being mindful of the timing of grant decisions.

Repeat Funding

The Zion's Benevolence Fund encourages organizations to develop realistic plans for long-term sustainability that do not depend upon recurring support from the Fund. The Zion's Benevolence Fund's competitive grant programs should not be considered a source of ongoing funding for any project or program.

The Zion's Benevolence Fund recognizes that an organization may request funding several times, each with a request for a different program. If the program is truly new and different each time, the Fund will consider these requests unique and not a form of repeat funding, so long as the guidelines of the specific program are followed.

Travel

Zion's Benevolence Fund will not consider requests solely to defray travel or lodging expenses for either individuals or groups. This includes travel to attend conferences, training or competitions, as well as trips for bands, sports teams, classes or similar groups.

Questions?

E-mail any questions to zion@shawanozion.org, Type 'Grant Questions' in the subject box, and include the question, contact name, phone number and best time to call in the message section. We will be glad to respond.