

# HELPFUL TIPS ON WRITING YOUR Better Together Fund GRANT

## Grant Tips

1. Provide a meaningful name for the grant.
2. The primary grant-proposer must be a Mission Presbytery church. Each church can only be the primary grant-proposer on one application, but they may be a collaborator on others.
3. Be sure to clearly show how this is a collaborative effort. Having several congregations working together is a big plus, esp. if this helps kickstart or enhance a long-term relationship (remember: the grants are designed to promote working together!) Including presbytery partners (like MO-Ranch, JKR, APTS, PCHAS) can be a good way to connect. Also consider other non-PCUSA churches and even with secular organizations to achieve goals. But remember collaboration, so too many organizations may be hard to balance.
4. On your application, make it detailed enough for grant readers to apprehend what you are trying to do, but as parsimonious as you can make it. Lots of extraneous photocopied info is generally not helpful. Remember: the grant readers will be fellow Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders from Mission Presbytery. Help them catch your vision.
5. In previous years, BTF grants needed the endorsement of a Mission Presbytery committee. This is no longer required. However, such an endorsement/collaboration may strengthen your proposal.
6. There is no maximum grant limit. Please ask for what you might need for your goals to be achieved. However, the Connect Committee or General Council may adjust your grant amount to try to achieve the most good with all the grants submitted.
7. The process: all the BTF grants received by April 15 will be copied and forwarded to the Connect Committee. The Connect Committee will evaluate the grants and make recommendations to send to General Council, who will look at the recommendations and make the final decision. After the GC's final decision, each group will be contacted as to their award, or, if no award, suggestions how to make a more competitive proposal next time. We strive to have the awards at the June presbytery meeting.
8. Make sure your proposal meets all the grant eligibility requirements (see below).

9. Better Together Grants are intended to fund new ideas and initiatives, not ongoing programs. As such, the same projects will not be approved in subsequent years.

10. Remember: the following year (2025), please report to the presbytery by the October 2025 meeting how your project went. This is a chance to (1) showcase to your fellow Presbyterians good ideas that they might be able to use, and (2) give thanks to God for the lives changed through the ministry. Take pictures or videos during your project as appropriate so they can be shared in 2025. Be creative! It can be a written report for the presbytery packet, or a video, or a poster presentation or a slide show, or whatever.

### **BTF Grant Eligibility Requirements:**

- A Mission Presbytery Congregation, Worshipping Community, or New Church Development must be the initiator of a Better Together Fund grant and may be the initiator on only one grant.
- Each initiator must pair with at least one Mission Presbytery Congregation, Worshipping Community, or New Church Development. In addition, they may also partner with other ministries.
- Any Mission Presbytery Congregation, Worshipping Community, New Church Development or Mission Partner of Mission Presbytery may support the grant or be a supporter on multiple grant submissions.
- Because the purpose of The Better Together Fund is for groups to participate together, collaboration is a requirement. Collaboration is defined as all parties involved in planning and implementing the grant activities together. Be sure the application explains this clearly.
- Each grant application must further the mission of the Presbytery (see above).
- This grant is intended for mission and ministry projects. Applications for capital improvements will not be considered.
- Only grant requests submitted on the “Better Together Fund – Application Form” will be considered.

## **Some grants from 2018-2023:**

2021: Inner City Mission Trips (San Antonio)

2021: Latino Worship Convencion (predominantly Latino PCUSA churches)

2021: Young non-college adults spiritual and community development

2021: Grants for people in need (Austin)

2021: Promoting health and healthy lifestyles in Laredo

2022: Gardens for food security in the RGV

2022: Resettlement of Afghan refugees

2022: Funds for young adults to attend multi-cultural meeting at MO-Ranch

2022: Training solar panel installers at JKR before they go to Guatemala

2023: Congregations gathering to provide books for PCHAS children

2023: Regional youth groups gathering to do fellowship together

2023: Churches combining forces to provide sleeping bags and blankets to homeless neighbors in Austin.

**Let's work together – we are better that way!**

## **Better Together Fund Application**

Please complete this form and submit it by email or US Mail. Also include by email or paper application the answers to the statements and questions following the form.

Emails should be sent to [missionpby@missionpby.org](mailto:missionpby@missionpby.org).

Paper packets may also be sent by US mail to Mission Presbytery, Attn: Accountant, 7201 Broadway St., Suite #303, San Antonio, TX 78209.

Name of the congregation initiating the grant:

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Name to be used when referring to the grant:

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Mailing Address:

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Physical Address (if different):

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person/Title:

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**On a separate page or pages, please respond to the following requests:**

1. Briefly describe the project for which you are requesting funds including the needs to be addressed and the number of people to be served.
2. Briefly explain how it will help the Presbytery fulfill its mission.
3. Explain how you will assess the success of this project/program including who will benefit over the next one to three years.
4. Provide a budget showing as specifically as possible all the planned sources of funding (including the BTG funds being requested) with amounts and the likely expenditures with estimated costs.
5. Explain specifically how the Better Together funds would be used.
6. Explain the supervision and accountability for this financial support.
7. List the PCUSA/Mission Presbytery collaborators on this grant and the roles of each.
8. Please provide the name and contact information of someone who will represent your project at the June presbytery meeting if you are awarded a BTF grant. If no one can attend, please provide a mailing address for the check, along with a specific person to whose attention it should be directed to make sure it is properly deposited.

NOTE: the endorsement of a committee of Mission Presbytery is NO LONGER REQUIRED. However, including them in your collaboration may strengthen your proposal.

**Checklist:**

- o Initiated by a church congregation
- o One or more partner congregations or entities
- o Other entities (optional)
- o Presbytery's mission addressed in the grant application
- o Items 1 – 8
- o Official form completed
- o Application at presbytery office by April 15, 2024, by 5:00 pm (a hard deadline).