

HELPFUL TIPS ON WRITING YOUR BTF GRANT

Please read the BTF grant guidelines:

1. Go to Mission presbytery home page
2. Click on “Stewardship and Financial Oversight”
3. Click on “Better Together Fund: Application and Deadlines”

Some grants from 2018-2022:

Churches and ministry partners working together to provide:

- > Retreat for returning college students at JKR
 - > Assisting refugees in the country with transport, ICE, courts, etc.
 - > Retreat for adoptive families at MO-Ranch
 - > Hurricane Harvey Benefit Concert
 - > Helping kids in RGV go to church camp
 - > Creating program to empower young Latina Christian leaders in RGV
 - > Teaching cooking and nutrition skills to people in RGV
 - > Providing backpacks and school supplies for children
 - > Connecting youth groups of different churches in local mission projects
- 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

Grant Tips

1. Provide a meaningful name for the grant
2. The primary grant-proposer must be a Mission Presbytery church
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. If you can, start these ideas and explorations and conversations with other churches by the summer or fall of 2022, anticipating the BTF grant process in the Spring 2023, with a hard April 14, 2023 deadline. Start early as you can so you can have the proper documentation and the best writeup.

Note: 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 General Council may adjust your grant amount to try to achieve the most good with all the grants submitted.

Note: The BTF grants were designed to stimulate new collaboration among Mission Presbytery churches. So, although you may ask for BTF funds to support existing projects and collaborations, realize that they may be given lower priority during the grant awards process.

7. The process: all the BTF grants received by April 14 will be copied and forwarded to the Stewardship Team. The Stewardship Team 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. Remember: the following year (2024), please report to the presbytery by the October 2024 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 October 2024. Be creative! It can be a written report for the presbytery packet, or a video, or a poster presentation (if we are face to face by then!), or a slide show, or whatever.

As you create your report to presbytery, be mindful that presbytery meetings from now on will be conducted either completely remotely or be hybrid remote & face-to-face meetings

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

-- grace and peace,

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