

2023 Mission Presbytery SERVE Grants Funding Guidelines June 1, 2023

1. SERVE has its own portion of the 2017 assigned Resettlement funds of which some of that money can be used to provide grants funding for 2023 SERVE grant applicants. Resettlement funds were portioned out to our committee (and to other Mission Presbytery Committees) as a result of the settlement agreement with First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio in 2017. Again, of which some of the remaining balance can be used to provide grants funding for 2023 grant applicants.
2. In addition, SERVE hopes to receive some additional monies to use for grant funding.

Rationale

In support of mission within Mission Presbytery, we believe:

- That Jesus Christ calls the church to minister to those who are poor, hungry, despairing, oppressed or suffering from injustice.
- That sharing in mission work with others is a desirable witness to the oneness of Christ's grace, love and ministry, and that sharing in mission with those of other faiths opens new opportunities for mutual understanding and the maturing of faith.
- That it is God's will for Christians to be involved in mission not only with financial resources but also with love, mercy, compassion, and justice.

Overview

A very limited number of annual grants may be made to any Congregation, Mission Presbytery Committee, worship community, new church development, or mission partner of Mission Presbytery. In addition, agencies and entities in which Mission Presbytery as a body maintains membership (examples: Texas Conference of Churches, Texas Impact) are also eligible for grants. Any Non-profits making a grant application that are associated with any of the above will also be considered. New initiatives may be given priority in grant evaluations. Grant applications are evaluated by the SERVE Grants Task Force (hereafter SGTF). SGTF makes funding recommendations to Mission Presbytery General Council.

Mission Grants Application Process

The application process serves to identify and support programs or projects (hereafter projects) worthy of the participation and support of our member congregations. These projects shall be located within the bounds of Mission Presbytery, along either side of the border with Mexico, and in other countries where Mission Presbytery or its churches have an active partnership relationship.

SGTF employs the following criteria in considering mission projects for possible funding and support:

1. The project shall demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed and shall be a valid response to God's will as affirmed in the *Rationale* above.
2. Those working in the project shall understand that Mission Presbytery considers the project to be an instrument of its ministry outreach in the love of Jesus Christ.
3. There shall be some participation in the project by Presbyterians living within the bounds of Mission Presbytery.
4. MOJC may request a site visit before funding is granted and/or during the term of a grant.
5. Since the Presbytery, through its outreach efforts, seeks effectiveness in the work of the Church, as well as good intentions, SGTF will review grant applications according to these additional criteria:

- The project shall be working in an area of clearly identifiable need.
- The project shall exhibit competent management of its affairs.
- There shall be evidence of enthusiasm and dedication among those engaged in the work.
- Whenever possible, the project should involve persons from the community serving in the planning and execution of the project, including development of leadership and financial support.
- The project shall have specific written goals including plans for their achievement and methods for assessment of progress.
- The past record, if any, of the project shall demonstrate accomplishments related to its purposes.

Nonprofits, [other than PC(USA) affiliated churches] making a grant application must submit a copy of their:

- Annual operating budget and project budget when appropriate
- Tax Exemption Letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- The most recently filed IRS Form 990 including Schedule A.
- The most recent independent financial review or audit. The audit/review must cover a period ending no earlier than 18 months prior to the application deadline. Agencies with an annual income of \$750,000 or more must submit an audit.

For grants selected for funding, a short article (preferably with photos) and suitable for publication in Mission Presbytery Weekly news must be sent to SGTF within 120 days from the time the grantee is notified of funding. The well edited article should summarize the project described in the funded grants projects and also describe how the grant furthers the mission of the Presbytery. The article should be written in an engaging, clear, creative & concise manner suitable for publication on Mission Presbytery's website or for distribution in an emailed newsletter.

Failure to provide complete documentation as stated above may result in disqualification from grants evaluation process.

**Respectfully submitted,
SERVE Grants Task Force**