



Metro Ministries, Inc. Spring 2024 Grants Program

Metro Ministries, Inc. invites all United Methodist churches and non-profit organizations serving within the Central District geographic area (Marion, Hendricks, Hancock, Johnson, Shelby and Morgan Counties) to consider a proposal submission in this grant cycle. Please review the following information.

About Metro Ministries

Mission: Working in conjunction with the Central District of the United Methodist Churches of Indiana, its member congregations, lay and clergy leaders, we connect resources to ministries and ministries to resources for the cause of Christ.

Vision: In the service of Christ, partners identify needs, relationships are developed, and new passionate initiatives are created to serve our neighbors.

Core Values: Christ Centered, People Focused, Community Built - Outreach Driven, Learning Organization

Grant Criteria

- Alignment with Metro Ministries, Inc.'s Mission, Vision, and Core Values.
- Programming funded by Metro's Grant Program must be intentionally focused on at least one of the following areas:

Christian Leadership Development – Youth and/or adult training which provides motivation and hands-on opportunities to become passionate, educated, and well-informed Christian leaders with the practice of service. This training should include outward-focused church and/or community ministries.

Emergent/Basic Human Needs – Ministries which engage with people who are under-resourced and marginalized, offering skills, education, training, daily life necessities, access to healthcare services, etc. Initiatives may address the causes of poverty. Establishing partnerships that enable individuals or communities to achieve self-sufficiency as an outcome is highly encouraged.

Racial Equity and Justice – Projects and programs that respond to racial inequity and interrupt racism. Work done through such projects and programs should stimulate sustainable change in individuals, communities and/or churches with tangible and visible outcomes.

Supporting the Growth and Well-being of Children and Youth – Programs and ministries that focus on education, social-emotional learning and spiritual growth of children and young people. Program outcomes must be defined and measurable.

- Plan for sustainability of the project or program
- It is expected that the grantee will outline a plan and appeal to donors and/or apply for grants from other funders using the experience of grant writing and demonstrated program success gained from the Metro Ministries, Inc. award.
- Metro Ministries, Inc. grants are intended to provide seed money for new or expanding community-based ministries in one or more of the areas of focus.
- Metro Ministries, Inc. will consider continued funding of a project or program up to a **maximum of 3 years**, with grantees re-applying each year.
- Metro Ministries, Inc., **MAY CONSIDER** extensions of or additions to existing programs to be new requests as it pertains to the 3-year maximum.
- Must demonstrate a funding model, as Metro Ministries generally does not provide 100% funding for programs or projects.
- Project or program must impact individuals and/or communities within the Central District boundaries (Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, and Shelby counties).
- While preference will be given to faith-based organizations, any qualifying organization will be considered.
- Metro grants are intended for programming expenses up to \$5000.00 not for direct salary expenses.

Grant Requirements:

- Attendance at the 2024 Grant Zoom Workshop will **be required** in order to receive a grant application link. The Zoom link will be posted on Metro Ministries, Inc FaceBook page, in the Wednesday Words Newsletter and on the Metro Ministries, Inc. website. Interested persons may also email the Executive Director at: metrodirector1923@gmail.com for the link to the Zoom Workshop. Participants at the Zoom meeting **MUST** leave their email address and contact information in order to receive the grant application link.
- Draft applications must be received by February 5, 2024, 11:59 P.M. to be considered for grant awards.
- Applicants are expected to engage with assigned mentors. Mentor assignments will be made by February 19, 2024. The number of mentor sessions will be determined by the need of the proposal.
- Final submissions must be received by March 15, 2024, 11:59 P.M. Grant recipients agree to:
 - o Allow site visits from Metro's Executive Director and/or Grants Team Members during the project/program.
 - o Submit Final Grant Report (form will be available on website after November 30, 2024)
 - o Time-limited project: within 30 days after completion of project
 - o Ongoing program: Within 90 days after receipt of funds
 - o Allow publication of program outcomes, impact stories and images** on Metro Ministries, Inc.'s website, social media platforms, press releases, newsletters and/or sharing at future events attended or sponsored by Metro Ministries, Inc.
 - o When posting photos or stories about program on social media, when appropriate, tag Metro Ministries and include hashtag "#mmi2024spring".
 - o ** We realize that some programs may not allow for the sharing of photographs and/or videos of program participants. This must be noted in the application submission where asked.

Spring 2024 Grants Timeline

- December 27, 2023: Grant Workshops Announced
- January 2, 2024: RFP Announced via Website
- January 4, 2024: Date of Zoom Grant Workshop (6:00pm EST)
- February 5, 2024: Draft Submission Due
- February 6-16, 2024: Team Reviews, Mentor assignment if needed
- March 15, 2024: Final Submission Due

- March 20,2023: Submission Evaluations and Recommendations by Metro Grants Team
- April 8, 2024: Recipients Announced
- April 27, 2024: Luncheon for grantees
- April 30, 2024: checks to be mailed.