August 15, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The online application for a Kansas District Mission Grant for Fiscal Year 2026 can be accessed by clicking on the following link: 2026 Mission Grant Application. The 2026 Fiscal Year begins January 19, 2026. You can also find the online Mission Grant Application on the District website, at https://kslcms.org/missions/mission-fund. If you need a printed copy of the application, please contact Tami Lierz at tami@kslcms.org. As you consider applying, please keep this helpful definition of outreach in mind: "Outreach is our congregation's efforts to make disciples by engaging the non-churched in our community through our ministries and activities in order to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ." (Rev. Mark Wood Meaningful Outreach) All submitted applications will be reviewed to determine how they align with this understanding of outreach.

The Board of Missions will no longer grant awards for the following requests: meals; salaries or other forms of compensation (stipends, etc.); mission trips; brick & mortar projects, i.e. construction costs or other capital improvements. Food in connection with broader outreach projects such as food pantries, campus ministries, neighborhood canvassing (e.g. JD2D), etc., will not be considered "meals" as mentioned above.

In order to encourage participation from more congregations, schools and RSO's of the Kansas District, the Board of Missions is earmarking some mission grant dollars for the following specific categories.

"\$500 SEO Microgrants" These small grants enable a congregation to work with Rev. Dr. Christopher Jackson of https://churchseo.io/ The purpose of these grants is to help ten LCMS congregations in Kansas get found online. For more information please visit: https://kslcms.org/missions/mission-fund/

"Expanding the Spanish Footprint" is a program of LCMS International Mission that provides training for LCMS pastors to immerse themselves in Spanish language and Latin American culture for up to 6 weeks in Santiago, Dominican Republic. The Board of Missions is offering \$3500 grants to partner with two congregations whose pastors would like to be equipped for Hispanic outreach herein Kansas. For more information please visit: https://kslcms.org/missions/mission-fund/

We also encourage circuit winkels and congregations working in partnership with other congregations to consider applications for hosting **Witness and Outreach Training Events**, including but not limited to Jesus Door-to-Door, *Shepherding Our Strays*, *Connect to Disciple*, and *Every One His Witness*. The Board of Missions will award up to \$1,000 grants for witness and outreach training.

The grant application is due to the District Office by **Tuesday, September 30, 2025,** which will allow the Board of Missions to review materials and make recommendations in advance of the Kansas District Board of Directors meeting in early November. If you already have your own budget worksheet, you may submit that instead of writing out the financial information on the grant application.

We want to help organizations move quickly beyond the need for financial assistance to self-support. The forms are thus designed to help you plan and program for movement in that direction. At the same time, we recognize that a mission grant can be vital, and financial assistance may be available as determined by the Board of Missions.

Due to the limited availability of funds, not all requests may be approved for the full amounts. We do want to make you aware of additional grant opportunities. Specifically, take note of the Kansas LWML grants application deadline of September 1, 2025.

LCMS National Grants

https://www.lcms.org/serve/grants/development

Amount: \$1,000 - \$20,000

Application Period: June 1 - August 1

LCMS Life Ministry Million Dollar Life Match https://www.lcms.org/serve/grants/life-grant

\$1,000 - \$10,000

Application Period: January 1 – February 15

Kansas District LCEF Outreach Grants

Contact: Jeffrey Maltz, Jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org

https://kslcms.org/lcef/grants/

Application Period: May 15 – June 15

Kansas LWML Grants

https://www.kansaslwml.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2026-2028-MISSION-GRANT-APPLICATION.pdf

Application deadline: September 1, 2025

National LWML Mission Grants

https://www.lwml.org/mission-grant-proposals

Deadline: September 1, 2026

Thrivent Community Action Grants

https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams

\$250 Gift Cards which can be used for many different items (including food, candy, etc.)

We will notify all applicants about award decisions later in November. If you have any questions, please contact Marvin Schulteis at 785-231-7953 or mhschulteis2020@gmail.com, Mark Wolters at 785-626-0672 or markwolters55@gmail.com, or Rev. Daniel Grams, Congregational & School Services Executive at daniel@kslcms.org. Thank you for all you are doing to serve the Lord and bless the role of the Kansas District. May our gracious God greatly bless your efforts.

The grace of Jesus be with you,

Marin H. Solutters

Marvin Schulteis and Mark Wolters

On behalf of Christopher Dehning and Rev. Michael Schotte

Kansas Board of Missions