

Seeds of Hope

Grant Application Guidelines

The Federated Church of Fergus Falls, MN holds at its heart Christ's command to love and serve our neighbors. Established in 1911 as a collaborative ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ, The Federated Church is now in its second century of service to the Fergus Falls and surrounding communities.

Bearing in mind the charge from Hebrews 10:24 – *let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds* – the congregation is making \$10,000 available to the community in the form of “Seeds of Hope” grants. As part of its mission, The Federated Church provides funds to develop and strengthen organizations that are committed to general improvement and welfare of the community and its citizens.

The Federated Church will give priority to applications that support missions valued by the congregation:

- **Evangelism:** supporting programs that spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- **Hunger:** supporting programs that guarantee that each person has enough food for today;
- **Youth:** supporting programs that enrich the lives of young people in our community.

GRANT GUIDELINES

1. Nature of Grants

- a. Grant requests from churches (including our own) and organizations that serve within one or more of the described areas of interest will be considered.
- b. The maximum amount for a grant is \$2,500.
- c. Grants may be used for operating costs or start-up costs.
- d. Grants may not be used for conferences, travel, scholarships, political campaigns, or research projects.
- e. These are one-time grants and do not represent continuing support by The Federated Church.

2. Geographic Consideration

The Federated Church will award grants to organizations operating in the Fergus Falls community or in surrounding communities within 30 miles of downtown Fergus Falls, MN.

3. Sustainability of Project

Successful grant applications will provide strategies for long-term sustainability of the project.

4. Accountability

The organization must provide financial and evaluative reports on the use of grant funds as part of the application process (see Application Guidelines).

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. **Program Information** – please provide the following:
 - a. *Executive Summary*. Describe the project in 1-2 sentences.
 - b. *Organizational Background*. Describe the organization's purpose, overall goals and plans. Outline the organization's structure.
 - c. *Project Description*. Describe the specific purpose for which you are requesting funds. Tell us what makes your organization unique from others with the same or similar goals.
 - d. *Measurable Goals and Objectives*. Explain how the project will be accomplished.
 - e. *Target Demographic*. Indicate the population and/or geographic area you intend to reach, including how many people you expect to reach.
 - f. *Impact*. Explain how the organization plans to evaluate the proposed program. If this is an established program, please note any goals reached and/or significant accomplishments.
 - g. *Sustainability*. Specify how the project will be sustained after the grant ends.
 - h. *Partnership*: How might members of our church be encouraged to partner with you?
 - i. *Promotional Materials*: Include any promotional materials pertinent to the program.
2. **Financial Information** – please include the following:
 - a. The current operating budget for the parent organization.
 - b. The proposed budget for the specific program or project.
 - c. Other sources of funding.
 - d. Evidence of tax exempt status (if applicable).
3. **Staff/Volunteers** – please indicate the numbers and responsibilities of paid staff and volunteers.
4. **References** – please supply letters of recommendation and contact information from three (3) individuals who are familiar with, but not directly involved in leading the organization/project. References should describe the impact this program is making on the community.
5. **Support Form** – please complete and submit the Seeds of Hope Support Form as a cover sheet.

Application Deadline: September 1, 2016

Send applications to: The Federated Church
224 N. Union Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 739-3227
www.federatedff.org

THE FEDERATED CHURCH
Seeds of Hope Support Form

PART I: ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Church/Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Website: _____

Executive Director: _____

Years of Service: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of Years Organization Has Been in Operation? _____

Organization's Mission Statement:

PART II: PURPOSE OF REQUEST

For which of the following will this funding be used?

_____ General Organization Support

_____ Specific Project

_____ Start-up program

Signature of Applicant

Date