



Florida-Bahamas Synod Covid-19 Special Grant Funding Application

On April 28, 2020, Bishop Pedro Suarez announced a comprehensive Covid-19 response as a reflection of the three Florida-Bahamas Synod Covid-19 Response Priorities:

Florida-Bahamas Synod Covid-19 Response Priorities (General)

- United to Serve: Providing funding for humanitarian aid
- United in Faith: Stabilizing the synod-wide ecology
 - Funding congregations in financial trouble
 - Funding technology needs for congregations
- United Together: Building strategic priorities to align resources for the future

As a part of that response plan on April 28, 2020, the Florida-Bahamas Synod Executive Committee authorized a new, restricted fund:

“that can collect revenue to be distributed to any Covid-19 related need (prioritizing congregation/synod/local ministry support). These funds would support ministries of the Florida-Bahamas Synod most in need and best positioned to help. This includes Florida-Bahamas Synod congregations as well as local ministries capable of reaching and assisting people in need.”

Funds received that go toward the direct support of congregations and Florida-Bahamas synod ministries (such as camps) will be distributed through a granting process to congregations in rounds. The Synod retains the decision-making responsibility for requirements and distribution to congregations and ministries.

The following values should be reflected in the use of the funds and will be used to prioritize awards:

- Care for the people and communities at-risk for impacts from Covid-19, especially:
 - Geographies with most cases and deaths
 - Disproportionately at-risk communities due to health status or exposure risk (e.g., African American communities, essential and farm workers), economic status and/or lack of access to healthcare (e.g., American Indian communities and “healthcare deserts”.)
- Care for congregations and ministries most vulnerable to impacts from Covid-19, especially those most in need and best positioned to help (as determined by Florida-Bahamas Synod).

Florida-Bahamas Synod Covid-19 Special Appeal Grant Funding Application

How and when will funds be awarded?

A *Covid-19 Grant Gift Committee* will administer grants as funds become available. The committee includes representatives from the Florida-Bahamas Synod staff and Executive Committee. The congregation's application will be considered and scored using a rubric based on the values found on Page 1.

How do we apply?

If your congregation would like to be considered for funds from the special appeal, simply complete the short one-page application below and submit to Michele Hilton at micheleh@fbsynod.org.

Congregations may update applications as the pandemic continues and needs and situations evolve. Congregations will be informed as new funding rounds are open, so applications can be updated in advance of the next cycle. Congregations without applications cannot be considered.

Are there other grants or funding sources available for congregations and ministries?

Yes, stay tuned. The special appeal is a preferential fund to offer direct operations relief for congregations and ministries during this trying time.

Pursuing federal options, such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) should also be part of planning and conversation for ministries. For more information, please see the ELCA's Covid-19 Response website at www.elca.org/publichealth and look for FAQs on Paycheck Protection Program Loans. You should also visit www.fbsynod.com for additional information and resources.

What happens after the grant has been received?

Congregations are responsible for periodic reporting on funds used to the Florida-Bahamas Synod. In the interest of getting funds out quickly, reporting and evaluation processes will be announced later, and congregations will be responsible for completing required reports and evaluations.

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Congregation Name: _____

Congregation Address: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Date: _____ Amount Requested: _____

1. Please share about the Covid-19-related situation in your congregation. What are the needs?

2. How will the funds be used? What will be the impact on the congregation/agency? Please include whether or not your congregation has applied for any federal grants, such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). Have you been approved for these grants?

Any unused funds should be promptly returned to the Florida-Bahamas Synod Office and will be added back to the Covid-19 Relief Fund. Any proposed changes to how you use this funding or questions regarding this funding need to be emailed to Michele Hilton at micheleh@fbsynod.org.

Submit this form to Michele Hilton at micheleh@fbsynod.org.