

Mission Field: Missouri

Mission Grant Application Instructions

For Award Period: July 2026 – June 2027

Introduction: The Missouri District partners with LCMS congregations who have identified (a) specific mission field(s) in their region and have committed to an intentional plan to engage this new mission with the Gospel. Four criteria intersect a District mission grant and an applicant.

- 1) **Community Engagement:** An intentional focus on building relationships and sharing the Gospel with unchurched people in the local setting.
- 2) **Leadership Development:** Identifying, equipping, and mobilizing volunteers sent into this mission field.
- 3) **Partnership and Sustainability:** Stewarding God's gifts by working collaboratively with partners for a long-term sustainable mission effort. Examples of collaboration include other LCMS churches, Circuits, mission societies, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), foundations, and community organizations.
- 4) **Mutual Accountability:** Grant proposals identify specific goals, strategies, and stories that will be regularly communicated, reviewed, and supported between the Missouri District and the mission.

Application Timeline:

- **Notice of Intent: Deadline: January 16, 2026**
Ministries should email the Director of Mission Services Rev. John Perling (john.perling@mo.lcms.org), to express their intention to apply for a mission grant and briefly describe their vision. This initiates the process, allowing the applicant and the interim mission director to collaborate effectively for a successful grant application. Ideally, this communication should occur well before submitting a grant application. It must occur at least six weeks before the annual grant application deadline.
- **Submit Proposal: Deadline: February 27, 2026**
The interim mission director must have a digital and complete grant proposal (see checklist on next page) by the last Friday of February. Discussing and refining draft proposals with the interim mission director at least two weeks before the deadline is encouraged to ensure a comprehensive application.
- **Site Review Period: January 17 through March 16, 2026**
All grant requests above \$5000 will require a visit (or Zoom meeting) with mission leaders involved in the mission and the interim mission director. Beginning with the notice of intent, the interim mission director will work with your mission leaders to schedule a site visit. Grants of lesser amounts may also include a site visit.

Congregational Endorsement: Where a grant applicant is not an LCMS congregation (e.g. RSOs, Circuits, and Regional Mission Society) a letter of endorsement from an LCMS congregation must be included with the grant. This congregation is expected to be a stakeholder that has invested or volunteered people, money, or other resources in the mission.

Missouri District Mission Grant Application Checklist

For Award Period: July 2026 – June 2027

Application Instructions

This document outlines a checklist of 12 essential items required to complete your application. The proposal may include various documents and digital artifacts. It should feature a cover page that identifies the artifacts and their relation to the checklist provided below. Applications must be submitted exclusively when all components are finalized and available in digital format.

Do not use elaborate visuals, themes, or formatting in the narrative portions of your grant application. For ease of processing, use standard margins, simple paragraphs, numbered lists, and bullets, as appropriate.

Supporting documents and visuals should be submitted separately. Preferred formats include PDF for financial statements, planning charts, research, and promotional artifacts. Provide photos and videos in high resolution with a release for use by the Missouri District. The interim mission director can offer file-sharing services for larger files upon request.

Application Checklist

1. Organization Name and Address

This is the legal name and physical address where checks and documentation may be sent to appropriate administrative contacts. If the address belongs to a sponsoring congregation for another agency, include the name of the mission or project.

2. Grant Contact Person

Provide the name, email, and phone contact information for grant communications. If the phone is a cell number, include permission to receive texts. Share any important considerations (limits on work email communications or inappropriate times to call).

3. Grant Amount Requested

Mission grants for major initiatives are annual in scope but distributed and evaluated in monthly increments. Grants for large projects (\$5,000 - \$35,000) require more specific planning and responses to items 4 through 12 below. Engaging the interim mission director as your mission coach and advocate in the preparation process is encouraged. Note: mission grants should be no more than 50% of total project costs.

4. Mission Statement

Provide a simple, clear description of your new mission. (25 words or less).

5. Vision Narrative

Provide a "high-level tour" (150-300 words) of this grant proposal. Describe your vision for a future where the Gospel impacts lives through this mission and a case statement of how this grant will help partner in your vision. If your proposal includes supportive attachments, such as photos, videos, statistical information, publications, etc., provide a list describing each after your narrative.

6. **Outcomes**

Describe at least two and no more than five desired mission outcomes for your proposal.

7. **Goals and Strategies**

For each outcome (above), provide SMART goals, specific strategies, and a timeline within the grant award period (July 2026-June 2027). At a minimum, each outcome should include:

- **Three SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely).**
- **Each SMART goal will include specific action steps and a proposed timeline.**

8. **Partnerships**

What partners have been identified to assist in your mission? Where applicable or helpful in advocacy, include letters of endorsement from your partners.

9. **Congregation Support**

What quantifiable level of commitment are members of the congregation(s) willing to pledge to this mission proposal?

- *Estimated number of volunteer hours.*
- *Dollars allocated from congregational/organizational budgets or designated funds.*
- *Anticipated contributions of individual donors.*
- *Grants from other organizations.*
- *Other revenue and capacity-building resources.*

10. **Sustainability and Support**

While this grant is an annual award with no long-term guarantees, it is helpful for both the District and your mission planning to develop plans for sustainability. Consider the following:

- *How long do you project a need for District funding?*
- *What are your plans for long-term financial sustainability and support?*

11. **Financial Statements**

Provide separate attachments for the following:

- *The mission project budget (including all income and expense projections).*
- *Two years of annual Statements of Income and Expense (preferably arranged by comparison) from the congregation, mission, or agency.*

12. **Commitment to District Missions**

What are your congregation/organization's commitments to supporting the Missouri District? Consider the following in your response:

- *Your financial pledge to the District.*
- *Intentional prayer support for workers and missions of the District.*
- *Participation in and promotion of District events.*
- *Sharing your stories and communications for various District media.*
- *Sharing the gifts, talents, and creative resources of your mission with the District.*