

LUTHERAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (LDA) FUND

Program Objective, Application Requirements & Grant Criteria

Revised 8-28-17

Program objective:

- To provide relief assistance to victims of natural disasters with a purpose-driven decision model based on Jesus' challenge to us, "I did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28).
- Grants are available for relief aid in the wake of tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, ice storms, wildfires, flooding, and similar natural disasters. Grants are not available for drought, infestations, disease outbreaks, man-made disasters, political strife, or random acts of violence.

Application requirements:

- Disaster relief grants in amounts up to \$10,000 (U.S. dollars; dependent on funding available) are available to help Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) congregations with the distribution of immediate relief aid to victims of serious natural disasters where 100 or more families have been displaced or affected.
- Assistance is available for disasters occurring within the United States and internationally where appropriate on-location oversight is available. Contributions to the fund may be directed toward a specific disaster. Any unspent directed funds will be transferred to the LDA general fund after a period of six months and will become available for other grant applications.
- Lutheran Disaster Assistance Funds can be granted only to LCMC churches or through LCMC authorized officials. All monies in the LDA Fund have been given with the expectation that we will be a resource for LCMC churches that request disaster relief assistance. We need to be accountable for funds entrusted to us. 100% of given funds go to helping disaster victims. We can be reasonably sure of that only when we send the funds directly to the LCMC church that has agreed to abide by the policies spelled out in the grant application.
- In the event there is no LCMC church within a 50 mile radius of the disaster, a church from another Lutheran denomination may request LDA funds under the following conditions: (1) the applying church must partner with an LCMC church in determining the use of funds, (2) the applying church must sign an agreement that the funds will be spent solely for relief; no funds may be spent on administrative or other non-disaster relief items, (3) the application must be co-signed by representatives of both churches, (4) the applying church must complete a final report detailing how the LDA funds were used and (5) the partnering LCMC church shall oversee the administration and use of the grant funds. Distribution of funds is contingent on approval of the application by the LDA Fund review committee.
- The local LCMC congregation must submit the request for an LDA Fund relief grant via e-mail to Dave Brauhn, LDA Fund chairperson at brauhn1864@gmail.com AND to St. Mark's Lutheran Church at stmarks@faith-life.org. All grant requests must come through a local LCMC congregation.
- Emergency (immediate need) grant monies may be used for emergency supplies such as the purchase of food, bottled water, clothing, blankets, medicine and cleaning supplies.
- The goal of the LDA Fund is to reach out to those impacted by disaster who otherwise would not have resources. Grants may also be requested to clean and repair uninsured structures belonging to individuals, churches or non-profits in need.

Grant criteria:

1. The local LCMC congregation will provide a plan of action for a relief effort involving local churches, in distributing the LDA-funded relief supplies.
2. The grant recipient is obligated to supply all information required under the grant application and the final reporting process as a condition of acceptance of a Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund grant.
3. The LDA Fund and local congregation shall not duplicate the work of primary relief agencies (such as FEMA, Red Cross etc.) in their efforts to meet immediate or long-term disaster needs.
4. Grants shall not be given or used to provide direct cash assistance to disaster victims.
5. Grant recipients are obligated to use grant monies for the original purpose intended within 90 days of receipt of the monies unless given an extension by the LDA Fund grant review committee. Within 60 days of the end of the grant project, the LCMC congregation receiving the grant shall send the LDA Fund

a refund of any unspent monies and a detailed report of how the funds were used, along with applicable receipts and supporting documentation. Outstanding final reports may delay the application process of other grant applicants.

6. A congregation may apply for a grant only twice within a twelve-month period.

Fund Administrator Contact Information:

Dave Brauhn, Chairperson

LDA Fund

c/o St. Mark's Lutheran Church

8300 C Ave NE

Marion, Iowa 52302

Phone: 319-447-0100

Email (please use both): brauhn1864@gmail.com and stmarks@faith-life.org

Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund Grant Application and Certification

Please complete the following. Incomplete information will delay processing of the grant request. Submit completed applications to: Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 8300 C Avenue NE, Marion, IA 52302.

LDA funds may be used to assist in the immediate replacement of basic needs such as housing, food, and clothing, or in longer term restoration and reconstruction projects. If the focus of your project changes direction from the description in this application, please consult with the LDA director before redirecting the use of the grant funds. All original grant requests are subject to approval by a committee of representatives from five participating LCMC churches prior to distribution of funds.

I. CERTIFICATION BY LOCAL LCMC CONGREGATION

We have reviewed the LDA Fund Grant Criteria. We endorse the need for a grant and will do everything in our power to assure proper and efficient administration of the LDA Fund grant for the purpose described below. A final report on how the LDA Fund grant monies were used, including receipts and clarifying documentation and the impact the grant monies made, will be submitted to the LDA Fund administrator (St. Mark's Lutheran Church) within 60 days of completion of the project. Completion is defined as when the monies have been spent, or a maximum of 90 days after receipt of monies. This means applicants have up to 3 months to spend the money and 2 additional months to file the report.

LCMC Congregation Requesting Funds

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
E-mail _____
Pastor's name _____
Pastor's signature _____
Phone _____

Project Contact Person for Congregation

Printed name _____
E-mail _____
Signature _____
Phone _____

LCMC Congregation President

Printed name _____
E-mail _____
Signature _____
Phone _____

II. DETAILED INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE DISASTER

Type of disaster: __Tornado __Hurricane __Earthquake __Ice storm __Wildfire __Flood

Other (explain)_____

Date of disaster: _____

Location affected (cities, counties, states): _____

Number of deaths: _____ Number injured: _____

Homes and families affected (approx. number): _____

General description of the purpose for this grant request:

Amount of grant request: \$ _____

Please use additional space, as needed, to provide answers to the following.

1. What current relief efforts are underway by the community and/or other relief agencies?
2. If this grant request is for immediate emergency relief : Does the congregation have a detailed plan of action to purchase and distribute immediate relief supplies? Please describe the plans and provide the total anticipated costs by category and time frame.
3. If the grant request is for a project that will take place more than 30 days after the disaster, what is the plan of action? Please describe the need, the anticipated project schedule, and materials to be purchased with the grant funds broken down by category, amount, and time frame.
4. Are local congregation, community, or matching grant monies available to assist in funding the proposed grant project? If so, how much?