

Heartspring Methodist Foundation Grants Program – Guidelines, Priorities, and Procedures

Heartspring Mission:

At Heartspring Methodist Foundation, our ministry is helping your ministry succeed. As the leading financial partner and stewardship resource for Methodist churches, agencies and individuals in the Texas Conference, we share your faith-based goals and generosity of spirit. Our goal: creating more resources for you to do more good, from building and expanding churches and funding ministries to leaving charitable legacies and advancing causes that make a lasting difference. We partner with you – Methodist churches and members – to tailor and grow investments that help support God’s work.

Purpose:

The Heartspring Grants Program was created to help worthy United Methodist organizations or causes by providing funding to support their mission to further the Kingdom of God within the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (TAC). Furthermore, the Heartspring staff, Board, and Grants Committee are tasked with honoring the charitable wishes of our donors through the awarding process.

Eligibility:

- All organizations must be tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Private foundations as defined in Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code are not eligible.
- Grant requests for the following purposes **will not be considered**:
 - Annual or special-event fundraising activities
 - Capital campaigns
 - Endowment growth
 - Debt reduction

Special Considerations:

Heartspring was founded specifically to serve the churches and members of the TAC. Therefore, grants will be made primarily to United Methodist churches, agencies and causes located within the geographical bounds of the TAC. Secondary consideration may be offered to causes or projects physically located outside the geographical bounds of the TAC that offer support to TAC churches, agencies, its members or communities.

Special consideration will be given for the following:

- Applications submitted on or before the deadline with full and complete information, including all requested supporting documentation.
- Projects oriented toward mission or ministry intended to further the Kingdom of God.
- Requests for grants that will significantly impact an organization’s ability to fulfill its overall mission, project or ministry.
- Projects that show Christ’s love to the community, including but not limited to areas of social service, Christian education, or spiritual growth outreach.
- Projects that empower people, rather than enable them.

Application Process:

To be considered for a Heartspring grant, please complete the Grant Application, and include the following supporting documentation:

- A detailed, concise description of the project
- Total church membership, including average worship attendance (if applicable)
- Organization's operating budget
- Organization's most recent financial statements
- A line-item budget for the total project, including income and expenses
- Any available matching funds or other leveraging opportunities
- A list of all entities asked to give financial support to the project or program, including responses and dollar amounts committed to date

Review and Awarding Process:

The deadline for submission of grant requests is August 31 each year.

All applications and any supporting staff summary or analysis will be submitted to the Grants Committee of the Heartspring Board of Trustees and Advisory Trustees (Board) for consideration. Heartspring reserves the right to request additional information, conduct interview(s) with representatives of the organization or make site-visits to the organization, as needed.

The Grants Committee will review and consider all requests, and present its recommendations to the Board for approval at its regularly scheduled meeting in October each year, or at a special-called meeting as close to that meeting date as possible. Grant recipients will be notified promptly once a decision has been made by the Board, and awards will be distributed as soon as possible thereafter.

While merit is evident in nearly every application received, not all requests will be awarded a grant. Once an application has been declined, it will not be carried over for future consideration. Organizations seeking grant funding across multiple years must reapply annually. Each application becomes the property of Heartspring and will not be returned or made available to others.

Award Recipient Accountability:

All recipients will be asked to confirm that grant funding was used for its intended purpose within six months of receipt of the award. Additionally, all recipients will be asked to provide Heartspring with a brief narrative explaining any impact the grant has made on the organization, its members or the surrounding community within one year. Failure to provide the requested statements of accountability in a timely manner may impact consideration for future grants.

Questions:

If you are unsure if your request fits within the guidelines and parameters of our Grants Program, or if you need additional information, please contact Heartspring at 713-533-3780 (800-521-9617) or via office@heartspringmethodist.org.