List of Principles and Criteria for the Adjudication of EOORC Vision and transformation Team Grants

The list below is intended for the guidance of the Vision and Transformation Team, and ultimately the Executive Committee of the Regional Council, to assist in the review of grant applications. The list is also available for grant applicants. Criteria are subject to periodic revision and update as based on experience and changing circumstances.

1. Applications must conform as closely as feasible to the guidelines provided by the Vision and Transformation Team outlined in the call for proposals. The key guidelines are reproduced in Appendix A for reference.

2. Demonstrating a commitment to the project by making a financial contribution in cash or in kind is strongly encouraged, though we recognize that this may not always be possible in communities of faith with limited resources.

3. Where grants for new ministry/mission projects are for over $5000, it is expected that the application will seek additional sources of funding beyond the Mission Strategy Fund. The applicant is encouraged to design a project budget that can be supported by several funding sources, in that way demonstrating broad support for the goals of the project. This would include other United Church- based or non-church funds. This is particularly encouraged for larger or multi-year projects.

4. The application should provide a clearly articulated link between the expected outcomes of the project and the ministries of the community of faith. How will this project enhance the ability of the community faith to live its call to ministry within the congregation, the surrounding community, or the larger world?

5. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to the sustainability of the project. The application should describe whether and how the project will continue after the end of funding from the V and T grants. However, grants may be made for well-conceived, "one-off" projects with demonstrable benefits to the community of faith and/or the wider community.

6. The applicants should demonstrate their capacity to launch and carry the project to conclusion successfully. This would include a demonstration that the applicant has sufficient financial and volunteer resources.

7. Visioning projects may include the evaluation of needs or options for technology, building upgrades or real property development. However, the Mission Strategy Fund provides project funds for program initiatives and does not provide support for projects involving physical building or real property needs. Other funding sources are available for these initiatives.

8. The proscribed $5000 limit on the size of visioning grants will be adhered to strictly. There are no set guidelines for the size and scope of other projects, but the team's decisions will reflect prudential considerations related to the overall vitality of resources. Specifically, the Vision and Transformation Team reserves the prerogative to defer approvals of grant applications that are otherwise of great merit in cases where it seems advisable to retain funds in anticipation of other worthy proposals. This is important given that there are two rounds of applications planned each year.

9. Proposed evaluation frameworks should articulate as clearly as possible how the community of faith intends to measure the outcomes achieved in a way that realistic, measurable, practical, and useful.

Current as of June 15, 2021

Appendix A: Guidelines for Applicants

New applications should include:
1. The name and contact information of the primary applicant, as well as an alternative should the primary contact be unavailable.
2. A brief description of the Community of Faith.
3. A statement of project goals and objectives. If relevant, please briefly identify short, medium, and long-term goals.
4. An outline of any applicable community needs; provide any relevant letters of support.
5. The amount requested and duration of financial support (single or multiple years).
6. A budget supporting the requested amount; and name other funding sources if applicable. This should include the commitment of funds by the applicant, either monetary or in-kind.
7. An explanation of how this project will enhance the ability of the community faith to live its call to ministry within the congregation, the surrounding community, or the larger world.
8. A description of the evaluation process, including how the outcomes will be assessed in a practical and demonstrable way.
9. A brief description outlining the ability of the Community of Faith to initiate and implement the project and any previous programs that have been implemented if applicable. This includes a demonstration that the applicant has sufficient financial and volunteer resources to carry out the proposed project.

Continuing Applications should include:
1. The name and contact information of the primary applicant, as well as an alternative should the primary contact be unavailable.
2. A description of how the project goals and objectives are being met.
3. An evaluation of the project's success to date and any adjustments that have been required.
4. A description of any new funding sources.
5. Budget
6. Other pertinent information that you would like to share with the committee.

Please note:
1. Applications may only be accepted from a recognized United Church of Canada Community of Faith within the EOORC region.
2. Applications should not exceed two pages. Supporting documentation, including the budget, are in addition to the two-page application.
3. Ensure any helpful supporting documentation and letters of support are contained in the one package or electronic file being sent for consideration.
4. Applications sent by email should be in a pdf format only.