

First Congregational Church of Pasadena
United Church of Christ

Outreach Grant FAQs

What criteria do you use to determine which programs or projects to support?

Grant funds are specifically for programs that benefit children and youth, underserved in access to resources to meet needs, in the Pasadena area that are aligned with the church's priorities and values. Areas of priority for children and youth are: historically and currently underserved and marginalized communities, hunger and homelessness, peace and justice, care for the environment, and advancing economic justice.

If we have previously received a grant, may we apply for another one?

Yes. Recipients of grants may or may not get grants in successive years. We are committed to forging relationships with organizations new to us while maintaining connections with ones we have supported in the past. To that end, we may not be able to provide resources for all organizations each year.

If we apply for another grant, would our chances of funding be greater with a different project or more of what you funded previously?

Organizations should apply for funding of their programs that have the greatest need. We respond to whatever is the greatest need, rather than for something new.

Do you offer grants for general operating expenses?

Yes. We are happy to offer grants for ongoing programs.

Do you offer grants for ongoing programs or just for new programs?

Both

Do you recommend a high degree of specificity in our request (such as a well-defined time-limited project), or do you think more general support for our programs could be a possibility?

We support both specific, limited programs and general operating expenses. Again, it is our sense of the greatest need which corresponds with our criteria.

Does the number of children and/or youth served by the program matter?

No. While the grants committee might prioritize a program that serves a larger number of children and youth we have, in the past, funded both large and small programs.

Are the outreach grants only available to organizations with an active 501(c)(3) status or are they also available to other types of entities or individuals that do charitable work as well?

We look for 501(c)(3) status for major grants and haven't given any grants to organizations without such status so far.

I'm thinking of requesting the funds for a 6-month period. However, if you prefer, we can spread the project out for a 12-month time period. Would you let me know what you would prefer?

Use whichever timeline works best for you and that reflects your program. We've had six, nine, and twelve month projects that have been funded, along with some that are for ongoing projects. The timeline of the project could impact the total grant amount funded.

You ask for a "detailed implementation plan for your project/activity/support," but because it is an existing program that has been described in detail in the proposal, is it necessary to repeat what has already been shared?

Repetition is not really needed if the information is given in another part of the application. In that case, you might want to mention where that information can be found.

Is there an outreach grant award ceremony?

We do not have an award ceremony for grant recipients but do ask that a representative of organizations receiving major grants meet with the congregation on a Sunday to share a little about their organization and what they are doing with our grant funds. The dates vary depending on the church calendar. Additional written reports and a final budget are also required.

When will my grant funds become available?

Grant funds are usually disbursed before the end of the calendar year.

What if I can't submit a completed application by the deadline?

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Is there any specific language we should use in a social media post?

Please refer to the church as the *First Congregational Church of Pasadena* rather than as FCC Pasadena or simply First Congregational Church. You could also add that people can learn more about the Outreach Grants on the church website at www.uccpasadena.org. We list the grant recipients on our website with a little information about their grant and a link to their websites.