

Sower's Field Policy for Church Plant Grant Applications

Grants will normally be to church plants within the United States of America and US territories.

1. The Grant Application must be completed online and accompanied by a statement of faith affirming the essential tenants of the historic Christian faith and a statement of call to church planting.
2. The lead staff of the church plant under consideration must complete the on-line, Gallup SRI assessment with a score of 66 or above. If the on-line assessment is not available in a language accessible to the applicant, the applicant must meet with a Christian leader chosen by the Executive Director for a face-to-face interview in the language most accessible to the applicant.
3. The Grant Application will be reviewed by a Grant Discernment Committee of the Board of Trustees.
4. The applicant must successfully complete a 2-5 day assessment process chosen by the Grant Committee. This assessment may be sponsored by a partner organization, such as but not limited to the PC(USA), the Evangelical Covenant Church, World Impact, or a church planting network “boot camp” approved by Sower's Field. Assessments of “recommended” or “recommended with qualifications” will be accepted as suitable for continuing the grant discernment process. An assessment of “not recommended” will end the grant process. If a 2-5 day assessment is not available in a language accessible to the applicant, the Grant Committee is responsible to define an alternative strategy of assessment.
5. The Applicant must agree to meet regularly with a Church Planting Coach, supplied by Sower's Field or one of our partner organizations.
6. All applications for grants will be scored on the following metrics on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being weakest and 5 being strongest.
 - a. Strength of Leadership
 - b. The applicant’s leadership behaviors confirmed through church and/or business activities.
 - c. Appropriateness of the leadership to the context of the community where the church plant is being envisioned
 - d. Correspondence between the financial capacity of the community and the cost of the model of Christian community envisioned.

- e. Clarity of Vision
 - f. Clarity of Core Values
 - g. Clarity of Ministry Strategy
 - h. Strength of Launch Team
 - i. Support from parent congregations measured in volunteer time and finances committed
 - j. Quality of oversight and support available from any related governing or network church bodies
 - k. Quality of oversight and support that can be provided by Sower's Field given the specific context of the church plant
 - l. Theological and Ecclesiological fit with whatever Christian denomination or church planting network that the church plant is seeking to affiliate.
 - m. Likelihood of forming a church plant among the unchurched.
 - n. Likelihood of forming an evangelizing community of faith among the unreached or peoples of other living faiths of the world.
7. Grant applications are approved with a majority vote of the Grant Discernment Committee.

Grant amounts: Normally grants are in the range of \$7,500 to \$10,000 for the first year and based on the track record of ministry may be in the same range for an additional 24 month.