

Operation Manna Purpose Statement

To engage Christian Reformed Churches in community ministries that seek to bring about sustainable change in individuals and communities experiencing significant needs.

Key Facts about Operation Manna Funding:

- Diaconal Ministries Canada's primary contribution to applicants is coaching, consultation and training:
 - Networking, visioning, board training, goal-setting, evaluation, etc.
- The maximum amount of any grant paid to an applicant in the first year is \$10,000 to ensure local sustainability.
- The amount granted to an applicant declines each year for multi-year funded projects/programs.
- The Operation Manna grant must constitute at least 20% but not more than 50% of a project's total budget. The same limits apply to program funding.
- Diaconal Ministries Canada does not fund capital projects such as construction and renovation.
- A comprehensively completed application must be submitted by August 15 in order to be considered for funding.
- To receive subsequent years of funding, renewal applications must be submitted by October 15 of each year.
- Operation Manna will only provide project or program funding to an applicant one time.
- Preference will be given to applications from Christian Reformed Churches, particularly those who have completed a Community Opportunity Scan, or organizations that have done an assessment of their community.
- No more than 3 applications (new and renewal) per classis will be approved in any particular year. However, an exception will be made if the applicant is a Christian Reformed Church, and/or there are sufficient funds to support it.
- Operation Manna will not accept an application from an existing organization whose total budget exceeds \$350,000. This restriction does not apply when the applicant is a church.

Guidelines for Operation Manna Funding

Operation Manna has identified 8 characteristics of a healthy, fruit-bearing community ministry. An applicant funded by Operation Manna must demonstrate each of these characteristics. A ministry might not initially excel in every area however, with support from Operation Manna, one expects to see growth and development in these 8 areas during the period of funding.

1. **Demonstrates holistic Christian ministry**

A ministry funded by Operation Manna is holistic. This is demonstrated in a ministry of compassion that responds to the whole person and includes a sensitive witness to the saving love of Jesus Christ.

2. **Recognizes people's strengths and responds to felt needs**

The ministry focuses on people's strengths while addressing significant needs. These needs should be clearly stated and the application should be clear on how the participants will be helped as a result of this project. A careful assessment of other agencies/churches working in this area is carried out at the outset to avoid duplication and ensure collaboration.

3. **Promotes sustainable change**

The ministry desires that participants make sustainable change in their lives. Sustainable change refers to growth in the lives of people in the following areas: personal, social, spiritual and vocational.

4. Involves the participants

Participants are actively involved in the ministry with input into the planning, delivery and evaluation of the programs. Participants are mentored to take on leadership roles in the ministry.

5. Connects with the CRC

Operation Manna believes that an active relationship between the Operation Manna applicant and the local CRC(s) is necessary to meet the mandate of the Operation Manna program. Whether the applicant is a local CRC or a parachurch organization, there should be a strong relationship with the CRC and its members to the ministry. This should be observable through broad awareness and support of its programs by the CRC members as well as engagement in the ministry's activities, especially by the diaconate.

6. Creates partnerships with the community

The applicant builds on the strengths in the community by working with existing agencies and services as well as other local churches to foster networking and collaboration.

7. Ensures accountability and evaluation

Applicants regularly review their work including a careful assessment of outcomes compared to project/program goals and objectives. This includes a review of the project's organizational capacity as well as the work of the staff and volunteers.

8. Attracts long-term local financial support

There is an expectation that an increasing amount of local funds will be committed to the project to make it locally sustainable after Operation Manna funding ends. The projected budget for the requested years of support must indicate how Operation Manna funding will be replaced.

Types of funding available

One-time Grants:

A. Community Opportunity Scan (COS): Operation Manna provides up to \$1500 to churches undertaking a COS in their community.

B. Pilot Projects: Operation Manna provides up to \$2500, with local matching funds required, for pilot projects.

Multi-Year Funding Grants:

A. Grants for a New Project¹: 2– 4 years of funding

Funding for start-up organizations that are launching a new ministry.

- The organization should be less than 2 years old at the time of application.
- The grant may not exceed 50% of the overall budget for the project.

B. Grants for Existing Ministries to start a New Program²: 1-3 years of funding

Funding for existing organizations that want to start a new program.

- The grant may not exceed 50% of the total budget of the program.

¹ "Project" refers to a 'new' start-up organization

² "Program" refers to a specific part or activity within an existing organization or ministry.

Timeline for applications

August 15: Applications for Year One of Multi-Year Funding Grants are due in the Burlington office of Diaconal Ministries Canada.

Applications for One-Time Grant Funding (Pilot Projects or COS) can be submitted to DMC at any time throughout the year.

Mail: Diaconal Ministries Canada
3475 Mainway Drive, PO Box 5070 Stn LCD 1
Burlington, ON, L7R 3Y8

Fax: (905) 336-8344

Email: info@diaconalministries.com

November– January: The Operation Manna Committee, staff and local CRC carry out an on-site review.

February: The Board of DMC makes its decision on grants.

April 15: The first grant instalment is advanced to the project or program.

May: A Ministry Networking Day is hosted by DMC. The Operation Manna offering is gathered in Christian Reformed churches throughout Canada.

Other Matters of Consideration

A. What are Diaconal Ministries Canada's expectations of partnership with you?

As a partner organization of Diaconal Ministries Canada, we ask you to:

- Develop clear annual project and program plans that describe what you do, how you do it, and what difference it makes in the lives of the participants based on Operation Manna's funding guidelines;
- Participate in an annual review with a member of the Operation Manna Committee and other stakeholders;
- Contribute 2-3 stories (with pictures where possible) which illustrate your work;
- Attend an annual Ministry Networking Day with other ministries to share your experiences;
- Consider participating in an annual Day of Encouragement in your area;
- Pray for other ministries funded by Operation Manna; and,
- Consider continued interaction and learning with DMC after the funding ends.

Diaconal Ministries Canada will:

- Walk along with you and learn from you as you develop your project or program;
- Visit your ministry at least once during the year;
- Provide opportunities for you to learn and share with other Operation Manna partners;
- Help build the strengths of your staff, program and board; and,
- Pray for your ministry.

B. Networking with other partners: diaconates, diaconal conferences and classis.

Diaconal Ministries Canada expects the applicant to network with other CRC-related groups, such as the diaconates of the local CRC, the diaconal conferences (geographic group of diaconates) and the classis (geographic group of CRC churches).

This networking with diaconates includes the following:

- Meeting with the deacons to get their input and active participation;
- Obtaining a letter of endorsement to send along with your application;
- Exploring ways to involve members of the church in the ministry of the project/program;
- Scheduling a presentation in the local CRC to inform and encourage involvement;
- Sharing prayer concerns on a regular basis.

This networking with the diaconal conferences and classis *may* include the following:

- Making a presentation and/or have a display at one of their meetings;
- Communicating with them regularly about your ministry and prayer concerns.