



Florida-Bahamas Synod-ELCA **Parish Health Ministry Grant**

In Luke 9:2, Jesus sends the disciples out to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God and to heal. In Baptism, as we become the children of God, our bodies become temples for the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). For Christians therefore, health is both a ministry to others and a responsibility for ourselves. Recognizing the importance of health for the well-being of each person, the Older Adult Task Force of the Florida-Bahamas Synod **has provided \$15,000 to be distributed as one time grants of \$500-\$2000 for the purpose of establishing health ministries/programs for Florida-Bahamas Synod congregations.** This grant money is envisioned to be used by congregations to establish or strengthen a Health Ministry Team or a Health Ministry of Parish Nursing. Congregations may apply individually or may team with another congregation to build a shared ministry.

Health Ministry Team

Grants of \$500

The Health Ministry Team is a ministry group which might include practicing or retired nurses or allied health care workers. Their primary role would be to address and promote the health and well-being of individuals within the congregation and in the local community through informational and educational programs.

The following are suggestions of how grant money might be used to build or strengthen a Health Ministry Team:

- To establish a speakers bureau to offer programs on community health issues
- To develop a community health fair event
- To develop and establish community programs in the congregation for health related groups such as health screening clinics, health support groups or exercise groups
- To establish a respite care ministry
- To establish a transportation ministry
- To establish support groups (grief, caregivers)
- To develop and maintain a resource library of health related materials
- To establish a visitation or Eucharistic ministry

Parish Nursing

Grants of \$500 - \$2000

This would be a Health Ministry overseen by a trained Parish Nurse. The Parish Nurse's role would be to serve as a part of the ministry staff in the congregation and minister to the holistic health needs of the congregation including emotional, physical and spiritual. This often is a paid position. Duties may include, but are not limited to, health education; home visits; leading health support groups; organizing health fairs; disseminating health information and coordinating community resource referrals.

A Parish Nurse is defined by the American Nurses Association as a Registered Nurse:

1. with an active Florida Nurse License
2. with 3-5 years of clinical nursing experience
3. who follows the Scope and Standards for Nursing Practice as established by the American Nurses Association
4. who, through a discernment process, understands a calling to serve the faith community in a holistic practice

The following are suggestions of how grant money might be used:

- To establish a new Parish Nurse Ministry which would include training for the nurse in an endorsed program that uses the Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course. A list of approved courses is available at <http://ipnrc.parishnurses.org/>.
- To support an existing congregational parish nurse in receiving basic parish nurse training in order to grow the scope of the ministry.
- To support a volunteer parish nurse by offering stipends and/or expense reimbursement
- To transition a volunteer parish nurse to a paid staff position
- To assist an existing parish nurse ministry to establish or strengthen programs including those suggested under the Health Ministry Team section.

Criteria for a Parish Health Ministry Grant

Each application should include a proposal for the envisioned ministry which demonstrates the congregation's commitment:

1. To integrate the ministry into the long term vision of the congregation's mission
2. To establish and sustain a health ministry that is supported by the clergy and congregation that meets the emotional, physical and spiritual health and wellness of the congregation and community.
3. To financially support the continuation and growth of the parish health ministry
4. To provide **matching funds** to proposed parish health ministry

Application Deadline

November 1, 2008

The deadline is firm and when the money has been completely allocated, the Parish Health Ministry Grant awarding phase will end. In the event that all grant monies have not been allocated, a new application process and deadline will be announced. The applying congregation must have a current Parochial Report on file with the ELCA.

Application Review and Recommendation

A Committee made up of members of the Florida-Bahamas Parish Nurse Network will review all applications. A listing of the Florida Bahamas Synod Parish Ministry Grant Committee Members and their contact information can be found at www.fbsynod.com/. This committee will make recommendations to the Older Adult Task Force for final approval.

For more information or assistance with the grant application please contact Parish Nurse Network Coordinator Nancy Roberts, RN (239) 549-4197, Parish Nurse Susan DeRosa, RN (941) 544-3121 or Pastor Richard Hans (813) 926-4710. More information on Parish Nursing and how a congregation might start a ministry can be found at <http://ipnrc.parishnurses.org/>.

Parish Health Ministry Grant Application

The written proposal should address the criteria set for the grant and include:

- A brief description of your Parish Health Ministry proposal
- The goals and vision for this ministry
- A plan for the public commissioning of this ministry and its participants
- A plan for the internal periodic evaluation of this ministry
- A plan for sharing the progress of this ministry with the Older Adult Task Force/Parish Nurse Network one year after receiving the grant.

Please attach the written proposal and include copies of the following:

- The congregation's mission statement
- A written statement from the clergy and pastoral staff regarding their envisioned involvement with and integration of the ministry into the mission of the congregation
- A written statement from the council regarding congregational support for the ministry
- A copy of last year's Parochial Report
- A copy of the congregational budget indicating the Parish Health Ministry line item OR council minutes reflecting an approved budgetary plan for the Parish Health Ministry in 2008-2009
- A written statement from the Health Ministry Team/Parish Nurse telling about themselves and their calling to this ministry
- **A statement about how matching funds are to be provided**

Please submit the original and retain a copy of the completed application and supplemental materials.

The completed application should be mailed certified with return receipt to:

Parish Health Ministry Grant Application
C/o Susan DeRosa, Parish Nurse
St. Armands Key Lutheran Church
40 N Adams Drive
Sarasota Fl 34236

Applications **must** be received by **November 1, 2008**.

Past grant recipients have utilized their monies in these ways:

*Establishing a Parish Health Ministry

*CPR Training Project

*Establishing a Health Ministry Team

*Good Steward Wellness Program

*"Our Savior's Wellness Steps"

*Establishing Three Health Ministry Initiatives

*Funding a Prayer Labyrinth

Total Funds Requested & Granted for 2006-2007: \$12,650.00

FBS-Parish Health Ministry
Task Force

Nancy Roberts, PN Coordinator	(239) 823-4777
Susan DeRosa, PN Co-Coordinator	(941) 544-3121
Pastor Richard Hans	(813) 926-4710
Sue Nardy, Parish Nurse	(863) 452-5609
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