

Innovation Grant 2026

Synod of the Northeast of the PCUSA

Question Group

Grant ID (ADMIN ONLY)*

ADMIN ONLY

Grant IDs are created with the following elements in this order:

- Grant Initials
- Last 2 Digits of the Year
- Assigned Number - usually just the order in which they are received (the first grant would be 01 and so on...)
- Month of the Commission Meeting during which the grant will be reviewed.
- The first Innovation Grant application received this year for review in April would have this ID: **INV-26-01-04**

Character Limit: 100

Innovation Grant Project/Ministry Name*

If this is your second-year application please enter the same Project/Ministry name used in your first-year application.

Character Limit: 100

What type of applicant are you?*

Choices

First time applicant

Second year applicant

What is the total amount of funding you are requesting?*

Under the new funding structure for 2026, Innovation Grants will be set at \$10,000 in the first year, with an additional \$15,000 available in the second year, contingent on demonstrated progress and sustainability. This model shifts the focus from transactional funding to mission-aligned outcomes, encouraging grantees to pursue meaningful and measurable impact. By fostering greater accountability, the Synod aims to support congregations in strengthening their capacity, expanding their reach, and implementing sustainable practices. Ultimately, this approach enhances innovation, impact, and alignment with the Synod's mission.

Character Limit: 20

Has your church/organization ever received funding through any of the other Synod Grant programs?*

Choices

Yes

No

Vision Statement*

Briefly describe the vision for your project/program/ministry. This summary may be used on the Synod website and in other similar publications.

Character Limit: 2500

PREVIOUS SYNOD FUNDING

Please provide additional detail regarding previous funding received from the Synod*

For each Synod grant award received, please list the name of the grant fund, the amount of funds granted, and the year in which it was received.

Character Limit: 1000

First Time Applicants

As we consider your application, we would like to get a full understanding of who you are, what you do, what you envision, and how God is working through you. Please answer the following essay questions succinctly, while also painting a picture of your ministry so that the readers of this application can get a sense of the impact of your work.

How did this vision come to you and your community?*

How did this innovative vision develop within your ministry or community? What needs, insights, or inspirations led you to this new approach?

Character Limit: 2000

Who are you serving through your project/ministry?*

Tell us about the people at the heart of your project. What are their stories, hopes, or challenges—and how does your ministry walk alongside them in life-giving and transformative ways?

Character Limit: 2000

INNOVATION*

In what ways does your project reflect innovation in ministry? How does it invite people to experience God's love or community in fresh and transformative ways?

Character Limit: 2000

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS*

Who leads and participates in this ministry, and how are leadership and decision-making shared?

Character Limit: 2000

MEASURING SUCCESS*

How will you know that the ministry is making a difference, and how will you measure success both in outcomes and in the stories or changes you see in your community?

Character Limit: 2000

SYNOD VALUES*

How does this project embody the values of the Synod (**Community:** Drawing people into meaningful relationships with one another; **Diversity & Inclusion:** Helping bridge across difference and promoting greater understanding between people; **Missional Identity:** Addressing real needs in the community and world with the hope, care, and love of Jesus Christ; **Partnership:** Creatively broadening the circle of partners to combine efforts and share vision.)?

Character Limit: 2000

Year 2 Applicants

In what year did you receive Year 1 funding?

Character Limit: 20

How much funding did you receive in Year 1?*

Character Limit: 20

The following essay questions supplement the Progress Report required of all Year 1 grant recipients at the completion of the grant year. Year 2 applications will not be considered without the submission of the Year 1 Progress Report. If you have not received the Year 1 Progress Report, contact innovation@synodne.org

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS*

Please describe how the leadership and partners in your project/ministry have developed since your last funding request to the Synod.

Character Limit: 2000

BUILDING TOGETHER*

What did you learn about the people connecting with or benefiting from your project in Year 1? How have these connections informed your plans for moving forward?

Character Limit: 2000

LOOKING AHEAD*

What developments do you anticipate in the coming year? What are you curious about? What do you hope to learn or discover?

Character Limit: 2000

MEASURING SUCCESS*

What will success look like for your project in Year 2? What are the markers that you are succeeding and how will you track these markers?

Character Limit: 2000

BUDGET PLANS*

How do you plan to use your Synod funding if this grant is awarded? Please describe how the funds will support the goals and activities of your project.

Character Limit: 2000

BUDGETING BEYOND THIS YEAR*

Because Innovation Grant funding is limited to two years, we invite you to reflect on sustainability. What steps have you taken, or do you plan to take, to secure additional funding or partnerships that will help this ministry continue to thrive?

Character Limit: 2000

PRESBYTERY CONNECTIONS

In which Presbytery is your project/ministry located?*

Character Limit: 150

PRESBYTERY CONNECTIONS*

The Synod celebrates the connectional nature of our church. How does your ministry relate to or partner with your Presbytery in living out shared mission and ministry?

Character Limit: 2000

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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- Provide a detailed project budget for your proposed or ongoing project/ministry, listing the anticipated expenses and income. Income may include both financial contributions as well as in-kind contributions (i.e., donated space, supplies, utilities).
- *Please include the requested Synod funding in your project budget so that Commissioners can see how the funding fits into the project budget.*
- *You may view some sample budgets here.*
- If you are unsure of how to format your budget, please contact innovation@synodne.org

Project Budget*

Please attach your budget file.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Project Budget 2 (optional)

Please attach your budget file.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

SUPPORTING MEDIA 1*

Please share a picture, video, news article, or other relevant supporting material with a brief description of the attachment.

Character Limit: 350 / File Size Limit: 5 MB

SUPPORTING MEDIA 2*

Please share a picture, video, news article, or other relevant supporting material with a brief description of the attachment.

Character Limit: 300 / File Size Limit: 5 MB

SUPPORTING MEDIA 3

Please share a picture, video, news article, or other relevant supporting material with a brief description of the attachment.

Character Limit: 1000 / File Size Limit: 5 MB

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

If you have pictures, videos, news articles, or other relevant supporting materials that are accessible online, please provide a list of links.

Example:

1. www.youtube.com/asdfq435q432f534
2. www.instagram.com/f4353452s

3. www.facebook.com/345f2434dd534

4. www.vimeo.com/f4h35h535f3h5.

Character Limit: 1200

Comments

Do you have any additional comments or information you would like to provide that we have not already asked you to provide?

Character Limit: 1200