

Glossary of Common Grant Terms

Action plan	The timeline of milestone activities to fulfill the purpose of the project.
Affiliate organization	A Lutheran parachurch organization that is independently incorporated or organized and has a focused ministry and mission.
Affinity group	An association of Lutheran church leaders relating to a particular segment or mission emphasis, generally formed as a national or regional expression of the ministries represented within their network. An affinity group is considered a parachurch organization.
Chief staff officer	The individual considered as the primary connection with a Lutheran organization or institution.
Church	Often used to describe the Lutheran community or the church at large.
Church body	A nationally organized and governed Lutheran group that adheres to specific doctrines and guidelines. Also commonly referred to as a “denomination.”
Church worker	A person employed as staff to work for a church or parachurch organization.
Churchwide	An organized and governed Lutheran denomination, e.g., the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Also commonly referred to as the “organized church.”
Coalition	A companionship, association, alliance or partnership of organizations that have common interests or goals.
Community	A group of people and their organizations and institutions loosely or closely associated with one another because of their traditions or some other common bond (religious, economic, demographic, political, etc.).
Congregation	Incorporated as a nonprofit organization, this is a locally organized assembly of like-minded Lutherans who gather regularly for worship and learning.
Congregational Cluster	Three or more congregations.
Denial	The refusal of a funding or in-kind request.

Denomination	A nationally organized and governed Lutheran group that adheres to specific religious doctrines and guidelines. Also commonly referred to as a “church body.”
End date	The date that a grant project and evaluation will be completed.
Funds raised	Funds raised or contributed to fulfill the challenge or matching component of a challenge or matching grant.
Gift in-kind	A grant in the form of goods and services other than cash.
Grant	A donation for charitable, religious, or educational purposes.
(Challenge) grant	An optional condition to a grant that uses the potential of grant funding as motivation to challenge donors to help attain a significant funding goal for an approved project. The grant will be awarded only if the challenge target is achieved within a specified period of time.
(Matching) grant	An optional condition to a grant that uses the potential of grant funding as motivation to challenge donors to help attain a significant funding goal for the project. This is a capped grant that will be awarded with the specification that the amount gifted by donors will be matched on a one-for-one or some other prescribed basis.
Indicator	The observable, measurable characteristic or change that represents achievement of the outcome.
In-kind support	A contribution of equipment, materials, time, and/or services for which the donor has determined a monetary value.
Institution	A ministry unit of the organized church having a particular social or educational purpose.
Judicatory	The regional division of a church body. Commonly referred to as synods or districts, depending on the church body. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has synods and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod have districts.
Letter of inquiry	A letter outlining an organization’s mission and project purpose with the intent to solicit philanthropic support.
Lutheran community	All of the individuals and organizations associated with Lutheranism.
Measures	Quantitative values for a project’s level of achievement on its outcomes. Generally, it is the target for the amount of change that leaders expect participants to experience.
Measurement method	An evaluation plan that demonstrates how the outcome measures will be achieved.

Outcomes	The benefits for participants during or after their involvement with a project. Outcomes relate to knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, behaviors, behavioral intentions, condition or status. For a particular project, there can be various levels of outcomes, with initial outcomes leading to longer-term ones.
Outputs	The results or products of a project's activities.
Parachurch	An agency, institution or organization that is affiliated or exists alongside of the Lutheran church.
Pledge	A promise to make future contributions to an organization.
Program	An ongoing, organized set of operational services and action processes designed to achieve specific outcomes for a specific population.
Project	A strategic and time-limited undertaking or organized set of services designed to achieve specific outcomes. A successful project may become an ongoing program.
Project Director Proposal	The person who oversees and is responsible for a project. A purposeful project plan for philanthropic consideration that includes projected outcomes, a budget (business plan), an evaluation plan, etc.
Recipient Requestor	The organization that receives and benefits from a grant. The organization or group that is proposing a project and requesting a grant.
Seed money	A grant used to start a new project or organization.
Synod	Derived from the Greek word "synodos," meaning to walk together in the faith. For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, synod is used to describe judicatories. For most other Lutheran denominations, synod is used to describe the church body as a whole.



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