

**MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE FUND
CLERGY APPLICATION (April 14, 2018)**

Mission

The mission of the Ministerial Excellence Fund (MEF) of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis is to provide financial relief and financial literacy education to stipendiary clergy and their families who are experiencing extraordinary financial distress. Recognizing the unique relationship between clergy and their congregations, the grant-making process is intentionally designed to be a catalyst for authentic and informed conversations among them regarding the unspoken financial challenges and sacrifices of ministry.

Who Is Eligible?

All active, stipendiary, ordained clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis are eligible for consideration who meet two or more of the following criteria.

1. W-2 employment status
2. Permanently assigned to one or multiple congregations that complete parochial reports
3. Permanently assigned to a campus ministry which has been canonically defined as a congregation that complete parochial reports
4. Permanently assigned to the Bishop's staff

Types of Situations Meriting Consideration

The MEF is designed to assist clergy and their families experiencing extraordinary financial distress or emergencies, which compromise clergy abilities to effectively lead their congregations. While the merits of each grant request will be evaluated independently, some examples may include the following.

- Medical expenses not covered by insurance for priest or family member such as addiction treatment requiring residential treatment, among others
- Emergency repair or replacement of a car
- In-home, non-medical care of an elderly parent not typically covered by insurance or Medicare
- Debilitating seminary student loan debt
- Immediate out-of-pocket expenses such as travel, lodging, among others, resulting from urgent family emergencies

GRANTS FROM \$1,000 TO \$15,000 WILL BE CONSIDERED. IN CASES OF EXTRAORDINARY NEED, LARGER GRANTS MAY BE CONSIDERED. GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING ALL APPLICABLE INCOME TAXES BASED UPON CURRENT IRS GUIDELINES FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE MEF GRANT(S) RECEIVED.

Please feel free to confidentially contact Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale, Canon for Administration and Evangelism, at brendan@indydio.org or Program Director, Melissa Hickman at melissa.e.hickman@gmail.com with any questions you may have regarding this application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

DATE:

NAME:

CONGREGATION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PREFERRED PHONE:

1. Personal Statement:

Please attach a personal statement of no more than 750 words. Include how you would use this grant to address a personal economic challenge that is impeding your leadership capacity or your ability to provide effective spiritual and pastoral oversight. Specify the grant amount you are requesting and how these funds will improve or enhance your ability to lead your congregation.

2. Financial Planning Experience:

I have completed CREDO. Yes No When? _____

I have completed Planning for Tomorrow. Yes No When? _____

Other? _____

3. Annual Household Budget:

Please attach an annual household budget including income and expenses.

4. Acknowledgements:

By signing this application, I acknowledge the following.

- The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and the MEF Grant Committee will not disclose any personal information without my written consent.
- In the event I receive a grant, I am responsible for the payment of all applicable income taxes.

- In the event I receive a grant, I understand that I will be required to secure financial planning counsel from the Church Pension Group (CPG) or a private personal financial planner. The Diocese of Indianapolis may pay any fees related to this requirement based upon the recommendation of the MEF Grant Committee.
- You will be required to provide written verification that you received financial planning services.
- In the event I receive a grant, I agree to participate in program evaluations and provide feedback related to my personal experience with the Ministerial Excellence Fund.

Applicant's Signature/Date

Spouse/Partner Signature/Date

Rector/Vicar Signature/Date

Senior Warden Signature/Date