



FUNDING FOR FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS- GUIDANCE FOR POTENTIAL WACF GRANTEES:

The Willmar Lakes Area is fortunate to be home to a wide variety of faiths and faith-based organizations that serve our communities. The Willmar Area Community Foundation (WACF) provides funding to faith-based groups that meet certain guidelines through our General/Community Grant funding. WACF does allow funding to faith-based organizations for community-wide, charitable purposes; we do not allow funding for direct religious purposes.

To assist faith-based organizations in determining eligibility to receive funding from WACF's General Community Grant Fund, we have included a sample list of program characteristics and descriptions as a guide. The list is not comprehensive; we encourage you to contact the WACF Executive Director should you have questions about your organization's funding eligibility.

Characteristics of eligible programs may include but are not limited to:

- May be located in a house of worship;
- Must separate religious programs from non-religious programs;
- May use the same room, but not at the same time, for religious and non-religious programs;
- Are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation, displaying an attitude of welcome and hospitality to all members of our communities;
- Abstain from religious worship, religious instruction, prayer and proselytization (recruitment);
- Eliminate any required statements of belief from participants.

Descriptions of faith-based programs previously funded include:

- A food bank operating out of a faith-based ministry;
- Case management for families at a faith-based social service agency;
- A senior dining program operated by a faith-based organization;
- Community wide after school programming and tutoring within a house of worship;
- Community-wide wellness and activity center with mentoring programming.

Programs who review this Guidance and deem themselves eligible may complete the on-line grant application. All submitted grant applications are reviewed according to established protocol.

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