NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, INC.

Friends of the Poor® Grant Program

Friends of the Poor® is an original National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul (National Council) program to provide direct funding for services to the poor in the United States. The **Friends of the Poor**® Fund is supported by funds raised from the general public for direct services to the U.S. poor, through person-to-person interventions made by the 100,000+ volunteer members of the Society nationwide.

Through a standardized, simple application process, <u>ONLY</u> SVdP <u>Conferences</u> can apply for up to a $5,000 grant from the National Council's **Friends of the Poor**® Fund. The total **Friends of the Poor**® Program budget is normally limited to the amount raised and/or approved by the National Council budget process. Individual grant award amounts may vary from the application amount, but will NOT exceed $5,000.

Grants are targeted to specific, current needs of the poor, above and beyond available conference resources. Preferred interest areas are: systemic change, rental/housing assistance, utility assistance, food, clothing, transportation, baby/children needs and medical.

Systemic Change is a new area of interest. The Funding Review Committee has allocated funding for these specific projects. The vision of the Society is "*Ending Poverty Through Systemic Change*." Systemic Change is focused on a deeper understanding of poverty, and empowering those being served. This calls for a "new" journey, leading them out of poverty into middle class. "Hope in Action" workshops have taken place to train Vincentians on the Society's Systemic Change model. These continue, with the next step being the implementing of "Getting Ahead" projects in local communities. These projects will help transform the lives of those living in poverty. As an example, a series of 16 systemic change sessions for 12 individuals could include a recommended stipend of $25/participant/class to help keep them attending ($4,800). Other ideas would be projects developing community resource groups, or programs aimed at breaking down the poverty cycle (jobs, finance, food, health, education, housing, individual-social-spiritual-physical growth).

Applications should fully develop their intended funding purpose and identify the impact of the funding in their Budget Narrative. All awardees are required to submit a grant report on the approved form after the grant funds have been used, including the use and impact of the funds, along with at least one success story. This documentation is important to share with our donors and the marketing of the program.

The Friends of the Poor® (FOP) Grant Application process was initiated at the National Council's SVdP Midyear meeting in April of 2008. The program is now an annual program. Please see the Grant Application Schedule for current specific application deadlines. No one grant request can exceed $5,000.

Application Tips

1. The application must be completed and signed by the District Council President, **or** the (Arch)Diocesan Council President with the required attachments as listed on the application. *Please note that Isolated Conferences only require a Conference President's signature.*

2. Complete applications must be received at the National Council within the announced application time-frames, or they will not be considered.

3. A suggested format for the Project Narrative, which is a detailed explanation of the project and its impact:

   a. Brief History and Background

   b. Purpose of the Grant – overview of how funds will be used and its **impact**

   c. Line Item Budget Narrative – a written narrative in dollar format of specifically how the funds will be used

4. If you need assistance with your grant application and/or would like it reviewed prior to submission, please contact the National Council Development Office at 314-576-3993. ext. 211 or 213.

Friends of the Poor® Grant Application Submission Times

1. February 12 - February 28 (due date)

   Conferences in the **North Central** and **Southeast** Regions

   April 15th - Grant awards announced

2. May 15 – May 31 (due date)

   Conferences in the **Mideast** and **Midwest** Regions

   July 15th - Grant awards announced.

3. August 15 – August 31 (due date)

   Conferences in the **Western** and **South Central** Regions

   October 15th - Grant awards announced

4. November 15 – November 30 (due date)

   Conferences in the **Eas**t and **Northeast** Regions

   January 15th - Grant awards announced

Please note: Friends of the Poor® Grant Applications will not be considered unless they are complete and received at the National Council post marked by the due date. **Requested funds must be used for direct service to the poor.** An application will not be considered if your conference is not aggregated. The conference must also have an IRS 501 (c) (3) status and be in good standing. We now have a group tax-exemption at the National Council to assist conferences and councils with their 501 (c) (3) status and urge councils and conferences to join the National Group or apply for independent tax-exempt status from the IRS. Conferences are not allowed to use the tax-exempt status of their parish. If you have questions regarding aggregation, please contact Julie Swanger at 314-576-3993, ext. 221. If you have questions regarding 501 (c) (3) options, please contact Sherry Brown at 314-576-3993, ext. 200.

To download an application: Go to http://new.svdpusa.com/developtools/FOP-Grant If you have any questions, please contact Gerri Sample, the Development Administrative Associate at 314-576-3993, ext. 211, or by email to gsample@svdpusa.org, or Steve Martinez, the National Development Director at 314-576-3993, ext. 213 or by email to: smartinez@svdpusa.org.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Friends of the Poor® Program!

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Updated: 7/19/2017