



Frequently Asked Questions

Area Grants Program

Please be sure to read the official Program Guidelines and Program Timeline for more information.

General Questions

When does the Area Grants Program open and close each year?

The 2026 Area Grants Program will be accepting applications from February 13th – May 11th. Throughout this time, there will be three deadlines for grant applications to be submitted for approval and funding on March 11th, April 10th, May 11th. See the current year's program timeline for further details.

Does the applicant need to be a 501(C)3 organization to apply?

For the Regular grant application, the answer is YES. This application is suitable for separate 501(C)3 organizations in which our members are actively involved in.

For the Local Area Project Support grant application, the answer is NO. This application is only for local Area works that do not fall under a 501(C)3 status.

Do members need to be involved in the 501(C)3 organization to qualify for a grant?

YES. Regular grants are given to 501(C)3 organizations in which Order of Malta, American Association members are actively involved. Active involvement is defined by regular volunteer work.

Does board membership for a 501(C)3 organization qualify as active involvement?

Board membership does not constitute active involvement. While it is a valid form of involvement in an organization, it cannot be the only form of involvement for an organization applying for a grant. Members must be involved in the hands-on work of the organization.



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Is my application guaranteed approval if I have been awarded a grant in the past?

No. Each year, all grant applications are put through a review process among local Area Grants Committees, Area Chairs, the NY Office, and the Association Grants Committee. This review process is unique to the year and takes into consideration a variety of factors including the specific purpose of the grant application and the total allocated funding available.

If approved, will I receive the exact amount I ask for?

No. Similar to what is stated in question 5, a variety of factors, including the specific purpose of the grant application and the total allocated funding available, are taken into consideration when determining the official amount awarded for each grant.

When does the awarded funding need to be spent?

Grants should be chosen that are able to fully spend their funds by the end of the relevant calendar year (i.e. by December 2026). Grant applications will be assessed in part on the applicant's demonstrated ability to spend the funds within this timeframe. You must demonstrate in the application form how you will spend the grant by the end of that relevant year. Exceptions to this will only be granted in exceptional circumstances (e.g. construction delays).

In these circumstances, a formal extension must be requested from the NY Office. Should the grant be spent on items outside of the original application form a formal request must be sent to the NY Office. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the organization being deemed ineligible for future funding.



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Local Area Project Support Grant Application Questions

What constitutes a Local Area Project?

A Local Area Project is a local Area work that does not fall under a 501(C)3 organization. For example, common Local Area Projects include Malta Walks and Backpack Programs. Funding received through this type of grant would be given directly to the Area to be put towards individual projects, such as purchasing the supplies needed for a local Area work. Funding could also be applied towards starting up a new local Area work, such as the Lourdes in a Day Pilgrimage.

Who can submit this grant application?

Local Area Project Support grants MUST be submitted by an Area Chair. Forms not submitted by Area Chairs will not be considered. If you are not an Area Chair but would like to submit this type of grant application, please contact your Area Chair.

Regular Grant Application Questions

What organizations can apply for a Regular Grant?

Local 501(c)3 organizations in which our members are actively involved in qualify for our Area Grants Program.

Who can submit this grant application?

Regular grants must be submitted by the organization. Please note that your Area Chair must be aware that an organization is applying for a grant. If you are the 501(c)3 organization interested in applying, you must be invited by a member of the Order of Malta, American Association to apply for the current year. Prior applications do not qualify you to apply each year.



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Can the organization's 501(c)3 status be through the diocese?

Every organization applying must have 501(c)3 status. If the organization does NOT have 501(c)3 status on its own, it must show proof of having 501(c)3 status through its diocese. Organizations applying will be requested to show proof via the Official Catholic Directory (Kennedy Directory) or by providing a copy of the organization's Charity Registration Exemption Letter.