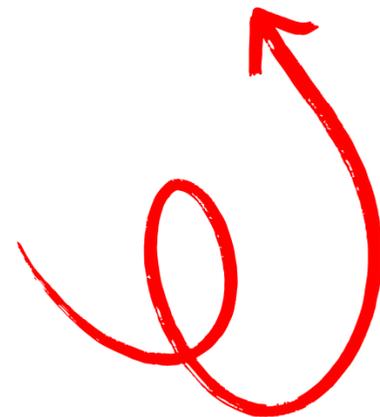


2026 Order of Malta Area Grants Program Guidelines

American Association



Grant Eligibility Criteria

The Order of Malta, American Association, through its Areas, accepts:

1. Applications from tax-exempt, non-profit organizations that have a clear, charitable, or religious purpose to assist the sick and the poor in which our members actively participate in hands-on work as a ministry of their Area.

2. Applications for Local Area Projects that do not fall under a separate tax-exempt non-profit organization.



Grants Eligibility Criteria

The American Association does not approve grants through the Area Grants Program for other purposes, including but not limited to: priest stipends, lobbying or legislation, projects which are “after-the-fact” (completed) by the date of the grants committee meeting, grants made to be used by other grant makers, or requests by or for individuals.

Only organizations and Local Area Projects that have or will have active hands-on participation of members of the Association will be considered. Grants cannot be given for projects outside of the Area.

Please note that while Board Membership of a non-profit or 501(C)(3) organization is a valid form of involvement, it cannot be the only form of involvement for an organization applying for a grant, as it does not meet the requirements for hands-on work for a grant. Applications will be considered on their merits.





Grant Submission

Please Note:

All Area Grant applications must be submitted online through the designated online forms. We will not accept handwritten, emailed, or faxed applications.

Applications should be submitted between February 13th – May 11th, 2026. Throughout this time, there will be three deadlines for grant applications to be submitted for approval and funding on March 11th, April 4th, May 11th. See the program timeline for further details.

Timeliness is critical in the process. Get help as soon as you know you need it. Do not wait until deadlines approach or have passed. Grant applications submitted outside of the deadline will not be considered or approved and available funds will be reallocated to the grant reserve fund.

Do not send extra materials such as brochures or photos as they will not be viewed by the Area Grants Committee and will be discarded.



Participation in the 2026 Area Grants Program

There are two ways to participate in the 2026 Area Grants Program:

Local Area Project Support Grants:

This category of grants must be used to support local ministries that do not fall under a 501(c)(3.) Activities such as local Malta Walks and Backpack Programs are perfect for this category. This is also a great option for Areas looking to start up a new activity in their Area.

Regular Area Grants:

The regular program provides grants to 501(c)(3) organizations in which our members are actively involved in.



Priorities of the Order

- **Responding to economic uncertainty/instability:** Prioritize grants that address basic needs, including food, housing, and clothing, particularly vulnerable populations, including children, older adults and people with disabilities on fixed incomes, and immigrant families.
- **Mission-aligned impact:** We recommend that funded projects respond to the most pressing needs of the sick and poor in our Areas for the coming year.
- **Active member engagement:** Area members have to be actively involved with the nonprofit partners they support to ensure impact and accountability.



Local Area Project Support Grants

Purpose: This category of grants must be used to support local ministries that do not fall under a 501(c)(3). Activities such as local Malta Walks and Backpack Programs are perfect for this category. This is also a great option for Areas looking to start up a new activity in their Area.

Process: The Local Area Project Support Grant form must be submitted by an Area Chair. These grants will be reviewed by the American Association's Grants Committee for final approval. This process concludes at the end of the year with a follow up form, to be filled out by an Area Chair, Grant Committee member, or other designated member to ensure that the grant money was used properly.

PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to use this category to launch a new activity in your Area, we ask that you please notify Executive Director Cathy Demeroto first and fill out the brief New Project Form [here](#) to ensure that the NY Office is made aware of this new project for our records and insurance purposes.



Regular Area Grants

Purpose: The regular program provides grants to 501(c)(3) organizations in which our members are actively involved in.

Process: Our Regular Area Grants Program application form can be accessed and shared by Area Chairs only. If you have an organization that you would like to apply for a grant, please contact your Area Chair. Upon approval, your Area Chair will send the organization the link to the Regular Grant Submission form and a password to access the form.

The organization can then fill out and submit the application form. The application is then reviewed in the New York Office. They will forward the Grant Request to the Area Chair. The Area Chair (and Area Grants Committee if required) will review and approve. The Area Chair will send the approved grant request back to the NY Office with the Grant Cover Sheet. The NY Office will confirm receipt. This process concludes at the end of the year with a follow up form to be filled out by an Area Chair, Grant Committee member, or other designated member to ensure that the grant money was used properly.



Application Form Helpful Hints

1. Amount Requested: The amount to be requested from the Association should be exactly what is required to get the project underway...or what is required to meet a specific, essential need...or what is needed to move the project forward to the next step.

2. Introduction: This serves to describe your organization, its mission, and achievements. What needs to come across is a clear sense of its track record and competence in the activity or area for which funds are being sought.

3. Specific Purpose: A good proposal will be exact, not only about the amount of money it seeks, but also the purpose for which the money is needed.

Note: Don't confuse "purpose" with project "goals" or with "methods". "Purpose" almost always relates to "means", not "ends". Thus, here you should state clearly what it is you are asking the Association to assist you in acquiring or in doing. (For example: "To buy a 4-wheel drive ambulance".) Your answer should be brief, using no more than 30 words



Application Form Helpful Hints

4. Area Grants must be fully expended by the end of the relevant calendar year (i.e., by December 31, 2026). Grant applications will be assessed in part on the potential grantee's demonstrated ability to spend the funds within this timeframe. Exceptions to this will only be granted in exceptional circumstances (i.e., construction delays). In this scenario, a formal extension must be requested from the New York Office. Failure to request an extension or to comply with this requirement may result in the organization being deemed ineligible for future funding.
5. Confidentiality: All information is kept confidential



Key Challenges in the Grants Program

- 1. Use of funds outside approved scope:** In some cases, grant funds were spent on activities not explicitly approved by the Grants Committee
- 2. Delayed or incomplete reporting:** Required grant reports were not always submitted on time or in the format stipulated.
- 3. Underutilization of awarded funds:** A portion of grants were not fully drawn down or deployed within the agreed grant period.
- 4. Incomplete financial documentation:** Original receipts and supporting documentation were not consistently provided as required.
- 5. Lack of Communication with the Grants Committee and NY Office:** When issues arise regarding the grant allocation, timely communication is essential.



Questions?

Please do contact the NY Office on
the details below:

Phone: 212-371-1522

Email: Staff@orderofmaltaamerican.org

