MinistryFOCUS Grants

MinistryFOCUS is a grassroots volunteer organization within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) dedicated to helping alleviate the educational debt burdens of pastors and other called workers. Currently, there are two different grant opportunities available:

Excellence Grants: These grants are exclusively available to LCMS Ohio District Clergy through a collaboration between MinistryFOCUS, the LCMS Ohio District Office, and the National Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Since the National LCEF partially funds these grants, they are only available to districts that participate with this organization. The district office also contributes funding, making participation optional.

The LCMS Ohio District is actively participating and is happy to offer this opportunity. Recipients will receive $4,500 to help pay down their debt and will also be enrolled, at no cost, in an online financial planning class at Concordia University Wisconsin. For 2026, three grants are available for pastors within the LCMS Ohio District.

Historical Grants: These are available for any LCMS Rostered Church Worker. Recipients will receive funds based on the availability of resources. In recent years, grantees have typically received a total of $3,000 to assist with their debt. These grants are available to all LCMS districts and began in 2015.

The application deadline for both grant opportunities is December 31, 2025 at 11:59 PM Central Time. The grant decisions will be announced in January 2026. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Ken Krueger at ken@ministryfocus.org or Lisa Hall, the LCEF Vice President, at 216-570-7077 / lisa.hall@lcef.org.

Click here to apply: https://ministryfocus.org/apply/