

Funding Sources for Accessibility Projects

Many congregations and camps are seeking financial assistance to make physical modifications to their church buildings and facilities. When searching for assistance, there are several things to consider:

- Look around your congregation to identify current needs; anticipate future needs as well, as best you can. Prioritize the list as needed, including respective dollar amounts.
- Start local. Contact your district – some Church of the Brethren districts have small modification grants and monies available.
 - Check into local and state grants that may be available to faith groups. These may be specific to collaborative efforts, such as a church or camp sharing their space with another group such as day care for children or adults, a school, Arc or other eligible entity. If you share or provide space to another group, talk to that group about resources of which they might be aware.
 - Contact your local community foundations annually to determine new programs and monies. This varies greatly by community. Grants and resources may change yearly; some rotate through every four to five years, so you need to check each year. Applications are often due by March – find out deadlines.
- Federal faith-based grants are available in many regions of the country, and often require that you show a collaborative effort between groups.
- Read each grant carefully.
 - Some grants will provide for building modifications if other programs are developed. You may need to demonstrate that you can continue the program successfully after the grant ends, in order to be eligible for the grant. Make sure that you can afford the longterm commitment.
 - Many grants will require matching monies. For grants that run two to three years, the matching amount may increase each year. For example, you may be required to provide a 25% match the first year, 35% the second and 50% the third. Determine if you can afford the match in the years to come.

- Many grants are denomination specific. Read the information thoroughly to make sure that you are eligible before completing the paperwork. If there is any question, call and ask.

Using the internet to search for grants:

eHow.com : Broad information on grants for churches

[Handicap Accessibility Grants for Churches](#)

[How to Find Grants for Churches](#)

[Church Remodeling Grants](#)

[Federal Grants for Church Renovations](#)

[Available Grants for Churches](#)

[How to Get Grants for Church](#)

[How to Set Up a Church Sound System](#)

[Faithbased Church Grants](#)

<http://www.grants.gov/>

Example of local, state or regional grants resource:

Michigan State University provides a website that has links to many faith-based grant opportunities. Be aware that your state or local universities may offer similar assistance – this is an example.

From the Michigan State University website:

“Michigan State University - works to promote and encourage religious involvement. Check their website to learn of the types of grants available. “

<http://staff.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/3relogin.htm>