



The Evangelical Covenant Church

LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

## LMDJ Community Development Ministry Grant Guidelines

The mission of the Love Mercy Do Justice (LMDJ) mission priority of the Evangelical Covenant Church is to join God in making things right in our broken world. From our inception, the Covenant has been concerned with helping hurting people (love mercy) and addressing the causes of that hurt (do justice). Our goal is to resource and equip the local church in its call to love, serve and work together with people at the margins to bring holistic individual, family, and community transformation. Through the legacy giving of benevolent donors, LMDJ can offer community development ministry grants in support of viable, identifiable, sustainable projects that seek individual and community transformation through or alongside the local church. Such initiatives will be consistent with the Matthew-Micah framework for holistic ministry. This framework prioritizes the emphasis of Jesus in Matthew 25:35-36 as a missional cause and adds to it the intentionality of action called for in Micah 6:8\* (*see Matthew-Micah Framework*).

LMDJ funding is designed to **augment** existing budgets for ministry initiatives.

***Applications, complete with budget submissions, should reflect existing funding sources and additional financial partnerships.*** The distribution amount of LMDJ grants varies. Each applicant will submit their requested amount that is a portion of their total budget. The grant committee awards a grant amount based on the number of approved grantees and the total dollar amount available to fund applications for the fiscal year. **It is important to note that monies will not be distributed for capacity-building (training) or capital expenditures (overhead, salaries, capital improvements, etc.).** Ministry initiatives must be tied to a local Covenant church.

***Starting with the 2025 grant cycle, if an applicant has received 5 or more ministry development grants from LMDJ, they will no longer be eligible to apply for this grant.***

This 2-part grant application process is open from April 1-30. The process starts with a Letter of Intent (LOI) being submitted by April 24th in the grant portal. The LOI will be reviewed for cohesion with the LMDJ Matthew-Micah framework, grant values, and grant guidelines. Within 48 hours (excluding weekends) a response will be sent. The response will either be denial, signaling the end of your application process or acceptance to prepare a complete application by April 30th. Requests are evaluated by the LMDJ Grant Advisory Committee once per calendar year.

The *LMDJ Community Development Ministry Grant Final Report* is due June 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Further, it is expected that all grant recipients will submit communication updates so that ministry initiation, implementation, and progress can be noted. See below for more information on grant reporting and communication.

All grant application materials are [available online](#).



## The Evangelical Covenant Church

LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

### Well-Designed Project

A well-designed project will demonstrate the values (*see Grant Project Values*) of Love Mercy Do Justice, and:

- articulate a viable implementation and management plan
- directly impact those served
- have clearly documented financial accounting
- demonstrate partnerships (financial and otherwise) for ministry sustainability

### Grant Timetable (*schedule subject to change*)

Apr 1 – Apr 24	Submit Letter of Intent using grant portal linked on this <a href="#">webpage</a>
Apr 1 – Apr 30	Submit full application using grant portal linked on this <a href="#">webpage</a>
May 1 – June 30	LMDJ Grant Advisory Committee Review
	Grant Award Processing
	Funds Dispersed
Nov 30	Communication Update due
Jun 1 (following year)	Final Grant Report due

Please read the materials carefully and document any questions you would like answered. LMDJ staff are available to coach/assist with anything related to the process of visioning/developing your ministry and/or submitting a grant application. Inquiries can be directed to [Ramelia Williams](#). LMDJ staff will potentially conduct further interviews and/or ask for more detailed information after your initial application has been received. This enables the advisory committee to get a better picture of the ministry being done on the ground in your community and how a potential grant award will tangibly impact the effectiveness of that ministry.

### Project Communication and Reporting

It is expected that LMDJ Community Development Ministry Grant recipients will provide reporting updates according to the aforementioned timetable. Of course, more frequent updates are always welcome. These updates will be submitted through the same portal you use to complete the application. These updates can include stories noting significant milestones in the project, photos, and/or videos. Photos should be uploaded as full resolution attachments. This will allow LMDJ to continue to communicate the good work of the local church in partnership with LMDJ. With permission, materials will be used on our website, Facebook, blog, twitter, and possibly in Covenant news stories and/or the



## The Evangelical Covenant Church

LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

Covenant Companion. Please be aware that the ECC will assume permission is granted to use publicly any photos, videos and/or stories sent to LMDJ. ***If there are any limitations in the publication of any materials you send, please so indicate.***

Communication and reporting are vital for the partner relationship. Past performance in communication and reporting will be taken into consideration when evaluating future project proposals. LMDJ requires reports as they are critical for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the LMDJ grant program and local ministry projects.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Ramelia Williams](#), Director of Love Mercy Do Justice Initiatives or [Eneida Reyes](#), Ministry Specialist.

**All grant applications should be [submitted online](#).**

\*The cause(s) of **Matthew 25:35-36**: *"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."* The call of **Micah 6:8**, *"And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."*