



ELCA Grants, Scholarships, and Loans

Below is a list of grants, scholarships, and loans available to applicants through the ELCA Churchwide Organization. Please direct questions about each program to the appropriate administrator of the program. Criteria, program descriptions, eligibility requirements, and funding ranges below are subject to change. Please contact the program administrator for most current information regarding the grant, scholarship, or loan.

Applications for all ELCA Churchwide Organization grants and scholarships are accepted through [ELCA Grantmaker](#), an online portal for applications, payments, reports and records. For more information about ELCA Grantmaker and how to apply, please visit ELCA.org/grants.

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Grants and Scholarships by Program

Advocacy

Advocacy Partnership Grants

Advocacy Partnership Grants are provided by ELCA World Hunger and are awarded to select organizations whose mission serves to deepen and further the goals and priorities of ELCA Advocacy. Applicant organizations are required to provide plans to show how their project or initiative will support, complement and collaborate with ELCA Advocacy on public policy or corporate social responsibility work.

Applications are by invitation only, issued by the ELCA Advocacy office, The Lutheran Office for World Community or the Corporate Social Responsibility program. Please direct any questions about the grant to the ELCA Director for Advocacy.

Domestic Mission

AMMPARO

AMMPARO is the ELCA strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. The AMMPARO grant process began in 2017 as a way to support and extend the work that Welcoming and Sanctuary Congregations and Synod AMMPARO and Immigration Task Forces do as a part of the ELCA AMMPARO strategy.



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Only synods and congregations that have joined the AMMPARO network are invited to apply. Please note that congregations should make sure that their synod is aware that they are applying for an AMMPARO grant before completing the application.

Campus Ministry Projects

Campus Ministry Project Grants provide funding for Lutheran Campus Ministry-related special projects.

Campus Ministry Convening Leaders

Campus Ministry Convening Leaders Grants provide funding for continuing education events and trainings for Lutheran Campus Ministry leaders. Please direct inquiries about campus ministry grants to the ELCA director of Faith Formation.

Disability Ministries

Disability Ministries Grants provide funding to support projects that address one or more of the goals of Disability Ministries for the ELCA:

- Preparing leaders for serving people with disabilities, raising up people with disabilities for leadership positions, and encouraging the participation of those with disabilities in the wider church;
- Equipping our synods, congregations and members with relevant and practical information enabling them to welcome and support individuals with disabilities so they may participate fully in the life of the congregation, and together, all may experience being the body of Christ; and
- Connecting and gathering those with disabilities and various groups within the church so they may help us become an inclusive, supportive and whole community of faith.

EGP Graduate Study Seminary Grants

Members of ELCA congregations who are enrolled in a doctoral program for advanced theological study may apply directly to the ELCA for financial aid through the ELCA's Educational Grant Program (EGP). Grants are given to Ph.D., Th.D., and Ed.D. candidates in theological study appropriate to seminary teaching. The program is open to both lay and ordained ELCA members.

Recipients may apply annually to renew their grants for a total of four years of support, but renewals are not guaranteed. In addition, a fifth year of support may be awarded as a dissertation grant. Annual grants are awarded based on academic calendar years from July 1st - June 30th. Applications must be received by a published application deadline, usually in May of the academic year for which the grant is sought. Awards will be announced to recipients by October.

Endowment Grants

Lutheran Services for the Elderly Endowment and Lutheran Services for Children Endowment provide funding for services or education that benefit the elderly or children. Only ELCA-related entities are eligible to apply.



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New Start Grants

Domestic Mission New Start Grants and its support systems accompany synodical initiatives to expand the reach of our church through the development of new congregations. These new communities of faith reflect our ELCA commitments to be evangelical, diverse, inclusive and ecumenical working for peace and justice in society. Only ELCA Directors for Evangelical Mission are eligible to complete the grant process for New Start Grants.

Developmental Loan Fund

Developmental Loan Fund – Direct

The Developmental Loan Fund Program helps combat the root causes of poverty and social injustice. The program provides low-interest loans to underserved organizations in the communities seeking self-sufficiency as they work to develop affordable housing, community-controlled businesses, micro-enterprise programs and community economic development. Direct Development Loans are loans up to \$50,000. Direct Developmental Loans are intended for modest organizational improvements, such as remodeling rooms in transitional housing units, upgrading communications technology systems, etc.

Developmental Loan Fund – Indirect

The Developmental Loan Fund Program helps combat the root causes of poverty and social injustice. The program provides low-interest loans to underserved organizations in the communities seeking self-sufficiency as they work to develop affordable housing, community-controlled businesses, micro-enterprise programs and community economic development. Indirect Development Loans are loans greater than \$50,000. Indirect loans are usually made to Community Development Financing Institutions (to support management of loans or to provide loans to underserved communities throughout their state) or synods for large initiatives (such as creating affordable housing in collaboration with congregations and social ministry organizations.)

ELCA World Hunger

ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants

ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants accompany congregations and their partners throughout the United States and Caribbean as they draw on the strengths of communities to address local issues, such as food security, housing, job readiness, clean water, human rights, policy change, leadership development and more. Accompaniment of communities toward a just world where all are fed means breaking down barriers between neighbors, ensuring just laws and policies, and addressing the root causes of hunger, so ELCA World Hunger prioritizes ministries and projects that are transformative, holistic, and integrated, providing bread for today and hope for tomorrow.

Applicants must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization able to demonstrate a strong, recognized, and established relationship with a congregation, ministry or institution of the ELCA and a strong, recognized, and established relationship with the community in which the work will take place. Grantees are funded for a three-year cycle, with a maximum award of \$10,000 per year, contingent upon the completion of annual evaluations and fund availability. Please visit elca.org/domestichungergrants



for more information.

ELCA World Hunger Education and Networking Grants

ELCA World Hunger Education and Networking Grants are intended to support programs and projects that help educate ELCA members about hunger and poverty while encouraging engagement with ELCA World Hunger. Hunger Education and Networking Grants can only be used for U.S.-based projects and, in general, are not intended for direct service. Eligible projects include educational events focused on hunger or poverty within congregations or ELCA-related institutions and the development of resources or programming focused on hunger or poverty for ELCA members and partners.

Fund for Leaders

The Fund for Leaders (FFL) was started in 1997 to provide tuition funding to candidates for ministry in the ELCA who show tremendous promise. FFL seminary scholarships represent the commitment of the entire ELCA to bring forth and support faithful, creative, and courageous leaders to serve God's mission in our church and in the world. For more information about ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarships, please visit elca.org/fundforleaders

Fund for Leaders Direct Full-Tuition Scholarship

The ELCA Fund for Leaders Direct Full-Tuition Scholarship is for new students who will be enrolled full-time or are enrolled on what their seminary considers to be full-time basis in the upcoming fall semester. Current students who will have completed no more than one semester of coursework by the upcoming fall semester are also eligible to apply. Applicants must be seeking to become rostered ministers in the ELCA and must have begun the candidacy process in their ELCA synod. These scholarships are awarded to students for the duration of their required seminary coursework. Applicants should be prepared to provide written essay, video essay, academic transcripts, letters of recommendation, synod candidacy verification, and an offer of admission letter from an ELCA seminary.

Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Scholarship

The ELCA Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Scholarship is for students who are attending an ELCA seminary full-time and are preparing for ministry as a Military, Veterans Administration or Federal Prison chaplain. This scholarship is awarded through ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministries. Recipients of FFL full tuition and or Synod/Congregation scholarships are eligible to apply.

Fund for Leaders Mission Developer Scholarship

The ELCA Fund for Leaders Mission Developer Scholarship is for current students including TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) candidates at an ELCA seminary. Students must be identified and nominated by their seminary in coordination with their synod bishop and with the ELCA Christian Community and Leadership unit (CCL) as a mission developer candidate. Do not complete this application unless you have received an invitation to do so.



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Fund for Leaders Synod or Congregation Scholarship

The ELCA Fund for Leaders Synod or Congregation Scholarship is offered to ELCA seminary students by synods and congregations that have established a scholarship fund through Fund for Leaders. A list of scholarships names is available from a menu provided in the application; choose the specific name of the award for which you are applying. Do not complete this application unless you have received an invitation to do so



Global Mission

ELCA engagement with international companion churches and organizations is rooted in relationship around the theology and practice of Accompaniment, defined as "walking together in solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality." In this walk, gifts, resources and experiences are shared to deepen and expand God's work in this world God loves. These grants are available BY INVITATION ONLY to international companion churches and organizations.

Diakonia and Development Grants

These grants accompany international companion churches and organizations in their development work. Sectors include health, water, agriculture, food security, livelihoods, education, advocacy, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, peace and reconciliation, gender justice, work with refugees and migrants, and others. These grants were formally entitled "Sustainable Development Grants" and are also known as World Hunger grants.

Mission and Ministry Grants

These grants primarily support core functions of companion churches and organizations, as well as interchurch and ecumenical partners. Sectors include evangelism, leadership development, in-country scholarships, education, communication, interfaith and ecumenical relationships, organizational support, and other church work. These grants were formally entitled "Project Grants". (See Ecumenical Grants for the application for LWF, LWR, WCC and CWS.)

Lutheran Disaster Response - International

These grants provide support for disaster response, preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and recovery work of companion churches and organizations, and interchurch and ecumenical partners (e.g. LWF, LWR, CWS, WCC, ACT Alliance). Sectors include shelter, non-food items, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, protection, psychological support, peace and reconciliation, and others.

Ecumenical Grants

These grants specifically accompany international interchurch and ecumenical partners, LWF, LWR, CWS, and WCC, in their diakonia and mission work as proposed in their annual funding requests. Sectors include health, water, agriculture, food security, livelihoods, education, advocacy, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, peace and reconciliation, gender justice, evangelism, leadership development, communication, interfaith and ecumenical relationships, organizational support, and others.



Global Mission – International Leaders Program Scholarships

The International Leaders Program (ILP) in the Global Mission unit provides scholarship awards, sabbatical experiences, and other leadership development opportunities to individuals selected and endorsed by our global companions (partner churches and institutions). The goal of the program is to assist partners in building their capacity for mission through the development of strong and effective leaders.

International Women Leaders Scholarship

International Women Leaders Scholarships are for young women who are interested in pursuing a 4-year bachelor's degree at an ELCA college in the United States. Only women between the ages of 17 and 25 are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Young women who do not wish to study in the United States (even those who meet the other criteria) should use either the Long-Term or Short-Term Scholarship applications.

All applications for International Women Leaders Scholarships through the International Leaders Program require the official endorsement of a national church body or institution, outside the United States, with which the ELCA has an official companionship partnership. Applications that do not include such an endorsement, or where there is no official partnership with the ELCA, will not be considered.

Global Sabbatical

The Global Sabbatical program is for current instructors, professors or educators who wish to teach at an institution in another part of the world during a sabbatical. This application should not be used by individuals seeking to study in an academic degree program. Individuals of any gender are eligible to apply for this grant. All applications for Global Sabbaticals through the International Leaders Program require the official endorsement of a national church body or institution, outside the United States, with which the ELCA has an official companionship partnership. Applications that do not include such an endorsement, or where there is no official partnership with the ELCA, will not be considered.

Long-Term Scholarship

Long-Term Scholarships are for individuals seeking academic programs of study that last 12 months or longer. Long-Term Scholarships can apply toward academic programs located either in or near your home country, or in another part of the world (such as the United States). Individuals of any gender are eligible to apply for this scholarship.

All applications for Long-Term Scholarships through the International Leaders Program require the official endorsement of a national church body or institution, outside the United States, with which the ELCA has an official companionship partnership. Applications that do not include such an endorsement, or where there is no official partnership with the ELCA, will not be considered.



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Short-Term Scholarship

Short-Term Scholarships are for individuals seeking programs of study that last less than 12 months. Individuals of any gender are eligible to apply for this scholarship. All applications for Short-Term Scholarships through the International Leaders Program require the official endorsement of a national church body or institution, outside the United States, with which the ELCA has an official companionship partnership. Applications that do not include such an endorsement, or where there is no official partnership with the ELCA, will not be considered.

Seminars

This application should be used only by individuals who have been previously invited to apply for an ELCA Seminar experience. This application should not be used by individuals seeking to study in an academic degree program. All applications for Seminars through the International Leaders Program require the official endorsement of a national church body or institution, outside the United States, with which the ELCA has an official companionship partnership. Applications that do not include such an endorsement, or where there is no official partnership with the ELCA, will not be considered.



Grants and Scholarships by Application Theme Group

Note: To apply for an ELCA grant or scholarship in ELCA Grantmaker, applicants will be asked to select the appropriate grant or scholarship from a list organized by numbered application themes. To find the appropriate application, use the list below to determine the application theme number.

Grant or Scholarship	Application Theme Group Number
AMMPARO	8
Advocacy Partnership Grants	7
Campus Ministry Convening Leaders	7
Campus Ministry Projects	7
Developmental Loan Fund – Direct	11
Developmental Loan Fund – Indirect	11
Diakonia and Development Grants	6
Disability Ministries	7
Ecumenical Grants	6
Endowment Grants	8
ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants	2
ELCA World Hunger Education and Networking Grants	7
Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Scholarship	5
Fund for Leaders Direct Full-Tuition Scholarship	5
Fund for Leaders Mission Developer Scholarship	5
Fund for Leaders Synod or Congregation Scholarship	5
International Leaders Program – International Women Leaders Scholarship	1
International Leaders Program – Global Sabbatical	1
International Leaders Program – Long-Term Scholarship	1
International Leaders Program – Seminars	1
International Leaders Program – Short-Term Scholarship	1
Lutheran Disaster Response – International	6
Mission and Ministry Grants	6
New Start Grants	7
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Grants	7



Grants and Scholarships by Eligible Applicants

Some ELCA grants and scholarships are restricted to select applicants. Each grant and scholarship process has more detailed criteria for eligibility, and the list below is not a guarantee of eligibility.

Invitation-Only

AMMPARO

Advocacy Partnership Grants

Campus Ministry Sites (ELCA)

Campus Ministry Convening Leaders

Campus Ministry Projects

Directors of Evangelical Mission

New Start Grants

ELCA Global Mission Companion Churches and Affiliated Partner Organizations

Diakonia and Development Grants

Ecumenical Grants

Lutheran Disaster Response – International

Mission and Ministry Grants

Students – College, University or ELCA Seminary

Fund for Leaders Direct Full-Tuition Scholarship (Direct apply)

Fund for Leaders Mission Developer Scholarship (Nominated)

Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Scholarship (Direct apply)

Fund for Leaders Synod and Congregation Scholarship (Nominated)

Students Endorsed by ELCA Companion Churches Outside of the United States

International Leaders Program – International Women Leaders Scholarship

International Leaders Program – Long-Term Scholarship

International Leaders Program – Short-Term Scholarship

International Leaders Program – Seminars

Contact

While this grant and scholarship list is updated regularly, the information is subject to change.

Each grant or scholarship has specific eligibility criteria and access to some grants and scholarships is by invitation only. If you have questions about ELCA GrantMaker or your specific grant or scholarship, please contact the administrator of your grant or scholarship. For general questions please submit an [online contact form](#) or email grants@elca.org. Please note the grant or scholarship you are inquiring about in your message.