



Friends of the Poor[®] Grants Program

If you are on a journey to help your Conference raise money, you should know about the National Council's Friend of the Poor[®] Grant Program.

Here is a quick summary:

1. The application is simple and can be downloaded from the national website <http://new.svdpusa.com/developertools/FOP-Grant>
2. Conferences may apply for a grant up to \$5,000 annually.
3. The FOP Grant Program awards are focused on the following "special interest projects:" systemic change (read full explanation below), rental/housing assistance, utility assistance, food, clothing, transportation, baby/children needs and medical.
4. Grant applications must be submitted on the most recent version of the FOP Grant Application form dated 10/22/2014.
5. Grant applications must be submitted with the official SVDPUA Annual Report form <http://www.svdpusa.org/members/Documents/Annual-Report-Forms>.

More Information:

Friends of the Poor[®] is an original National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul (National Council) program to provide direct funding for services to the poor in the United States. The program is coordinated by the National Council through the national volunteer network of SVdP Conferences and Councils. The **Friends of the Poor[®]** Fund is supported by funds raised from the general public for direct services to the U.S. poor, through person-to-person interventions made by the 100,000+ volunteer members of the Society nationwide.

Through a standardized, simple application process, SVdP Conferences can apply for up to a \$5,000 grant from the National Council's **Friends of the Poor[®]** Fund. The total **Friends of the Poor[®]** Program budget is normally limited to the amount raised and/or approved by the National Council budget process. Individual grant award amounts may vary from the application amount, but will NOT exceed \$5,000.

Grants are targeted to specific, current needs of the poor, above and beyond available Conference resources. Preferred interest areas are: systemic change, rental/housing assistance, utility assistance, food, clothing, transportation, baby/children needs and medical.

Systemic Change is a new area of interest. The Funding Review Committee has allocated funding for these specific projects. The vision of the Society is “*Ending Poverty Through Systemic Change*.” Systemic Change is focused on a deeper understanding of poverty, and empowering those being served. This calls for a “new” journey, leading them out of poverty into middle class. “Hope in Action” workshops have taken place to train Vincentians on the Society’s Systemic Change model. These continue, with the next step being the implementing of “Getting Ahead” projects in local communities. These projects will help transform the lives of those living in poverty. As an example, a series of 16 systemic change sessions for 12 individuals could include a recommended stipend of \$25/participant/class to help keep them attending (\$4,800). Other ideas would be projects developing community resource groups, or programs aimed at breaking down the poverty cycle (jobs, finance, food, health, education, housing, individual-social-spiritual-psychical growth).

Applications should fully develop their intended funding purpose and identify the impact of the funding in their Budget Narrative. All awardees are required to submit a grant report on the approved form after the grant funds have been used, including the use and impact of the funds, along with at least one success story. This documentation is important to share with our donors and the marketing of the program.

The Friends of the Poor® (FOP) Grant Application process was initiated at the National Council’s SVdP Midyear meeting in April of 2008. The program is now an annual program. Please see the Grant Application Schedule for current specific application deadlines. No one grant request can exceed \$5,000. Below is the grant proposal submission schedule.

1. February 12 - February 28 (due date)
Conferences in the **North Central** and **Southeast** Regions
April 15th - Grant awards announced
2. May 15 – May 31 (due date)
Conferences in the **Mideast** and **Western** Regions
July 15th - Grant awards announced.
3. August 15 – August 31 (due date)
Conferences in the **Midwest** and **South Central** Regions
October 15th - Grant awards announced
4. November 15 – November 30 (due date)
Conferences in the **East** and **Northeast** Regions
January 15th - Grant awards announced