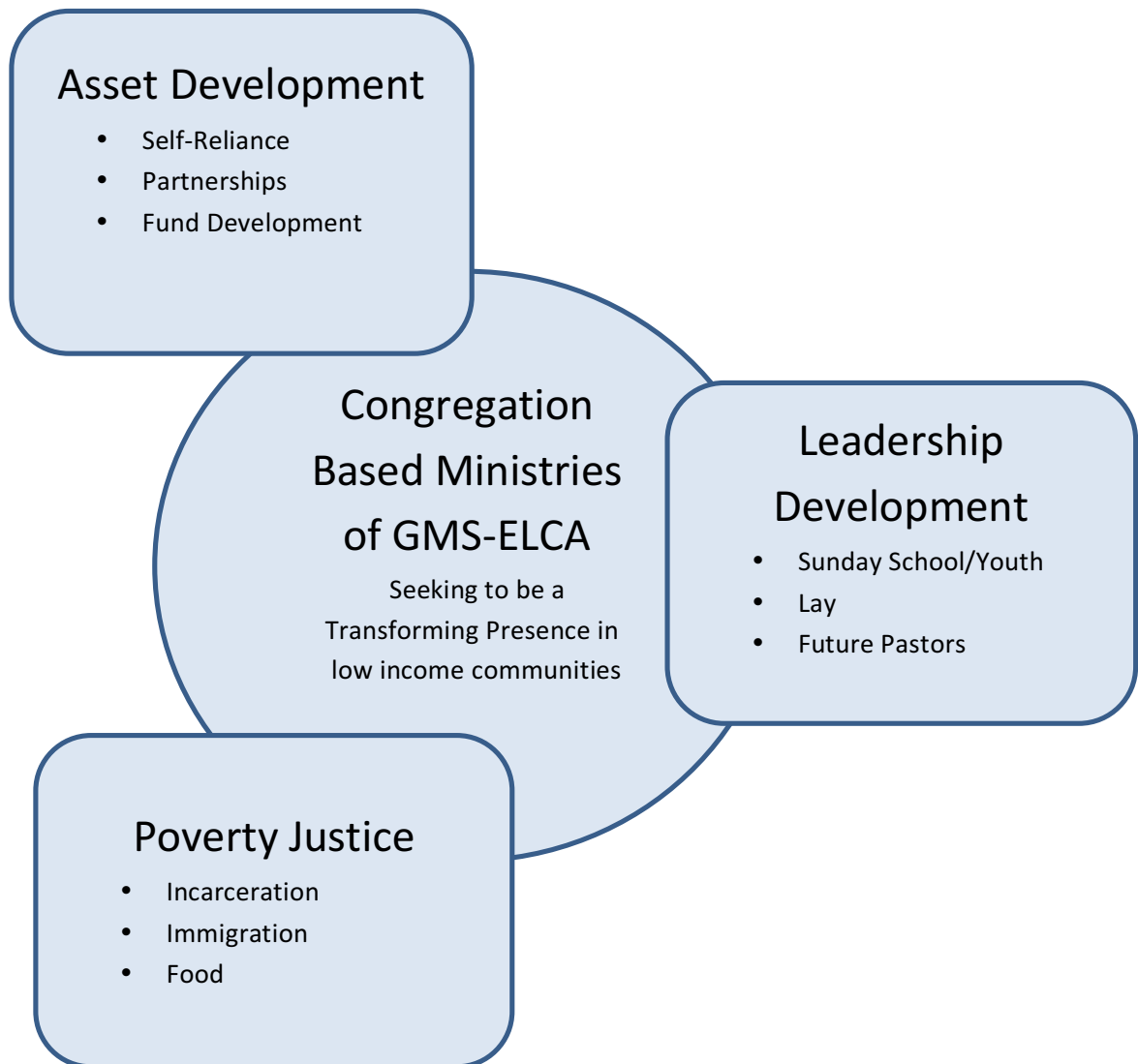


# Outreach for Hope

## Funding Support Based On

### Three Targets of Transformation



# **Outreach for Hope**

## **Grant Application Background Information.**

### **About Outreach for Hope**

Outreach for Hope was founded by an official action at the 1995 Synod Assembly of The Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA. The synod continues to value congregations that minister to people in neighborhoods of poverty, which have vibrant ministries, but often need extra financial support.

Since 1995, OFH has distributed grants totally over \$3,000,000 and has witnessed how the ministries it funds continues to transform lives.

At their core, ministries funded by Outreach for Hope are gatherings of faith communities. People connect when they gather to worship, and share communion. This “Word and Sacrament Ministry” is at the heart of each ministry that Outreach for Hope funds. Ministries supported by Outreach for Hope put a high emphasis on worship that reaches out and welcomes the stranger. These ministries extend their impact beyond the walls of their building and work at becoming part of the social fabric of their neighborhoods.

As a result of a year-long process of visioning, Outreach for Hope will focus its funding on three Target Areas:

- Asset Development
- Leadership Development
- Poverty Justice

Following are descriptions of each Target Area as well as examples of the types of actions that would qualify in each area.

### **Asset Development**

This Target Area focuses on programs that develop the existing assets of the congregation and neighborhood.

- Creative uses for the congregation’s building.
- Highlighting unique qualities and programs that will help ministry qualify for additional outside funding.
- Developing special talents of individuals and groups within the congregation to serve, strengthen, and support the church community.
- New initiatives in partnership.
- Fund training to improve financial management, grant writing, building management, and other administrative components of the congregation.
- Support ministries that grow from a specific cultural group within that neighborhood or congregation.

## **Leadership Development**

Studies show that poverty is effectively addressed only when people from those communities are engaged in the leadership work of transformation within their own community. A key gift the church is to help empower and transform individuals as leaders.

Leadership Development happens at all levels, beginning with strong programs for children and youth that emphasize leadership training. At the adult level church activities and lay-focused programs should be designed to educate and move individuals toward leadership. The goal is to have members of the community become the chief decision makers and implementers of the ministry.

Because the pastor and lay professionals often become the driving force behind many of the churches' programs, it should also be the goal of leadership development to seek out and support individuals who will become lay leaders of all ages, and future pastors within the ELCA.

Examples of Leadership Development Target Area actions:

- Sunday School, child, and youth programs that have specific goals of character and faith development.
- Opportunities to develop and include members of all ages as congregational leaders.
- Seminars and extended education for adult leaders
- Long-term programs that seek out, develop, and support individuals to become professional church workers.

## **Poverty Justice**

What God calls for ultimately is justice, not charity alone. (Micah 6:6-8) While charity may be relief in the midst of crisis it rarely transforms lives. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. pointed out in a speech (April 1967) "...we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed..." Charity is most effective when it is only the first step, which provides people the strength they need to bring about justice in their lives and their communities. They also need allies to add to the strength of their voice.

The collective voices in the church and outside of the church need to speak to the systems that produce and maintain poverty. The Greater Milwaukee Synod has made anti-racism a core value of what we do together for justice in our Synod. All ministries funded by Outreach for Hope are expected to include that commitment as a part of their mission.

Poverty Justice Target Area actions include congregational advocacy focusing on incarceration, immigration, and food justice.

- Seeking to change the incarceration system, specifically in the State of Wisconsin.

- Changing immigration law, which by its current design adds to poverty by taking advantage of individuals because of their status and vulnerability
- Insuring that healthy food is available in poor communities at reasonable cost, along with education to eat healthy

*Note: We recognize there are many justice issues related to poverty. We regret that not all can be addressed with the limited resources Outreach for Hope provides. Important issues that OFH could focus on in the future include housing, public transportation, safety, and health care.*