

Through the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc., Leadership Education at Duke Divinity invites Foundations of Christian Leadership participants to apply for an Innovation Grant of up to \$5,000 to fund a process to wrestle with a pressing need for innovation in their context. Leadership Education is interested in funding projects that have the potential to strengthen the leadership capacity of those directing the grants and the Christian institutions they serve. Explore our frequently asked questions to learn more.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for an Innovation Grant?

We will introduce the Innovation Grant during session 1 of Foundations of Christian Leadership. More focused conversation will occur throughout session 2. A link to the online application will be sent at the conclusion of session 2 and will be active for three months.

Using the grant to put your ideas into practice should feel like a natural way to close out your experience with Foundations. Because you will have been in conversation with the Foundations faculty and the Director of Grants, nothing about the application process should be a surprise.

We will review applications on a rolling basis and send you a decision approximately two weeks after the date of submission. We will let you know whether your application is funded or requires additional work.

If two or more people from my organization come to Foundations, can we get more than one grant?

Yes. We encourage participants to come in groups when it is beneficial to the institution. Each participant who submits an approved proposal will receive an Innovation Grant of up to \$5,000 for his or her institution. While there may be overlap in the ideas, each participant is responsible to lead his or her individual grant process.

Participants are also welcome to collaborate with one another to pool resources to develop innovative processes that benefit all contexts involved.

Can I collaborate with other Foundations participants in a grant process?

Yes. Participants are welcome to collaborate with one another to pool resources to develop innovative processes that benefit all contexts involved.

Am I guaranteed to get an Innovation Grant if I attend Foundations?

Participants who attend both of the Foundations intensive sessions and are active contributors in the discussions, assessments, reading and written reflections will be invited to apply for an Innovation Grant at the conclusion of session 2. Receipt of the grant depends on your ability to propose an innovation that has the potential to advance the mission of your organization. In some cases, there are specific IRS regulations that may prevent participants from receiving an Innovation Grant (see below).

Are there things for which the grant funds cannot be used?

The grant cannot cover the tuition or travel expenses for Foundations, regular salary necessary to conduct research (such as recording devices).

As part of the application process, you will submit a grant budget outlining how your institution will use the funds. Budget reports will be submitted to the Director of Grants at the mid-point and conclusion of the project. Changes to the grant budget of more than 20 percent must be discussed with the Director of Grants prior to making the changes.

What are examples of grant projects?

This question arises often, but we don't answer it. Only you know your context and the pressing challenges you face every day. Only you know your unique ministry and what is possible with this Innovation Grant. You will have time to brainstorm during both Foundations sessions.

Leadership Education is interested in funding projects that have the potential to strengthen the leadership capacity of those directing and implementing the grants. We also are drawn to grant ideas that have the potential to strengthen the vitality of Christian institutions and inspire greater faithfulness and effectiveness in the leadership and management of those institutions. We also have an interest in organizations that seek to create lasting change by strengthening the ecology of Christian institutions that enable communities, congregations and clergy to flourish.

How will the grant be evaluated?

We require that each grant recipient electronically submit written reports at the mid-point and conclusion of the grant process. These reports should include a budget update and reflections on the impact and outcomes of the grant. The Director of Grants will be available for conversation throughout the process.

What are the obligations of my institution with an Innovation Grant?

- Institutions are required to submit a letter of institutional support as part of the application process. This letter should be written by the appropriate senior pastor, board chair, CEO or other senior officer and should demonstrate the institution's rationale and support for the project. It must be written by someone other than the Foundations participant, signed on institutional letterhead, and can be scanned and attached to the application or sent as a hard copy with the signed application form.
- Each grant application must also include a completed Duke University Vendor Packet, which includes a statement of compliance, IRS W-9 form and a Duke University vendor information form.
- The participant and a representative from the institution must commit to participate in an online convening of other grantees and Leadership Education staff to offer feedback and learnings from the Innovation Grant experience.

What if I leave my institution before my grant project is complete?

If you leave your organization prior we make a decision about your application, no grant will be awarded. If you leave your organization after the grant process is underway, the funds remain with the institution. Your supervisor and the Director of Grants will work together to ensure the grant process concludes appropriately.

Is Duke academic credit available for Foundations and/or my grant project?

This program is not part of the Duke University degree curriculum and is not eligible for credit towards the completion of a degree at Duke.

What IRS classification is needed for an institution to receive an Innovation Grant?

The institution needs to be incorporated.

I know what I want to do for my grant project. Can I have the money sooner than at the end of session 2?

No. We encourage you to begin thinking about possibilities for your grant project during session 1, and you will have opportunities to refine your ideas with input from your cohort during session 2.