

Foundations of Christian Leadership

Through the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc., Leadership Education at Duke Divinity invites participants of Foundations of Christian Leadership to apply for an Innovation Grant of up to \$3,500 to fund a process for grantees to wrestle with a pressing need for innovation in their context. Participants are welcome to pool resources for group innovations benefitting all contexts involved.

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. Applications will be emailed to participants at the conclusion of Session 2 and are due within 6 weeks.

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 faculty of Foundations and the Director of Grants, nothing about the application process should be a surprise.

The adjudication committee will review applications and send you a decision within 2 weeks of the submission of your proposal. We will let you know at that time whether your application is funded, or if we have suggestions or request that you reconsider portions of the application.

Once a participant is notified of their accepted proposal, additional paperwork will be emailed to them. The paperwork (a W-9 for the institution and a Funds Acceptance Form) will be due within 2 weeks. Upon receipt of the completed paperwork, Duke will mail a check to the participant's institution within 60 days.

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 the conclusion of Session 2. Receipt of the grant is dependent 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).

What can the grant funds be used for?

Grant funds can be used as financial leverage toward a project that experiments with the engagement of the institution's human, service, intellectual, and network resources. Most organizations have a wealth of resources in one or more of these areas and are challenged in others. So as you think about a possible experiment, consider the following questions: What sort of innovation would help you increase the capacity of a resource that challenges you? How might you invite other community groups to partner with you to use the grant funds to strengthen your networks and widen your scope of influence?

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% must be discussed with the Director of Grants prior to making the changes.

What are examples of grant projects?

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.

We believe you are the experts on your context and you know best what areas can benefit from innovation. We want your ideas to come from your context and the opportunities and challenges you face every day.

Some grant themes which have been considered:

- Convening groups to discuss context specific issues such as racism, economic models and diversity
- Experimenting projects outside a traditional governing or committee structure
- Sharing and learning from program practices across a conference/denomination
- Studying a parallel cultural context for comparison to the history and landscape of Christian institutions

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 project. 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 about the project throughout its timeline and will be in touch with your organization at the time of reporting.

Are there things the grant will not cover?

The grant cannot cover the tuition or travel expenses for Foundations, regular salary support, expenses related to the pursuit of a degree, or capital expenditures beyond what may be necessary to conduct research (such as recording devices). If you have questions about possible grant budget items, please contact the Director of Grants.

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?

We encourage you to begin thinking about possibilities for your grant project during Session 1 of Foundations. You will have opportunities to refine your ideas with input from your cohort during Session 2. The window for submission of grant applications opens at the conclusion of Session 2.

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 IRS W-9 form and Funds Acceptance Form.

- As part of the grant agreement, 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.