



Mission Essential Parish Family Fund FAQ

Q: What is the Mission Essential Parish Family Fund?

A: This is a fund within the St. Joseph Foundation that provides grants to qualifying parish families that have mission and program resource needs.

Q: What is a mission essential parish family?

A: Most mission essential parish families are in economically depressed regions or rural areas with small populations. In these parish families, the ability to implement a strategic pastoral plan is highly limited by financial and human resource constraints. To enable mission vibrancy at these essential parish families, financial support may be necessary for ministries, staffing, programs, and other needs.

Q: What are the qualifications to be considered for a Mission Essential Parish Family Grant?

A: To qualify, the parish family must include more than one church used for regular weekly Masses, less than \$1.25million in combined Ordinary Income for the previous fiscal year, and less than \$1.25million in combined PRF savings as of the most recent fiscal year, excluding:

- PRF funds connected to a parish school.
- PRF funds set aside for expected maintenance spending.
- PRF funds placed in a restricted fund not available for general use.

Q: How will the fund get its resources?

A: Leftover funds from the Parish Solidarity Fund, which was formed during COVID-19 to support parishes struggling financially, have been transferred as seed money to the Mission Essential Parish Family Fund. Individual donors are also able to donate directly to the Mission Essential Parish Family Fund, and parish families that have financial means are able to contribute by donating a portion of their annual ACA rebate.

Q: What is the grant process?

A: Parish families wishing to apply for a MEPFF grant will submit a grant application (including a report on past grant awards) to the St. Joseph Foundation. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with quarterly grant distributions. Grant reviews will take place in February, May, August, and November.

Q: How much will grantees be able to receive?

A: Parish families will only be able to receive one MEPFF grant per fiscal year and individual grants may not exceed \$100,000. The fund will distribute up to \$300,000 in total grants each fiscal year, unless an emergency need arises. The board has the discretion to approve grants at a lower amount than requested.

Q: What can grants cover?

A: Grants would primarily support programmatic needs and emergency capital projects. The fund will not generally support staff positions but may consider these in special circumstances.

Q: What can't grants cover?

A: The fund will not be used to support non-emergency capital projects, day-to-day operational needs, or school expenses.

Q: Can a parish apply for multiple grants?

A: Parish families may receive one MEPFF grant each fiscal year. An impact report on the use of previous awards will be requested. Parish families may receive both a MEPFF and St. Joseph Foundation grant in the same fiscal year.

Q: Who oversees the fund?

A: As a designated fund within the St. Joseph Foundation, the fund has a subcommittee who is responsible for receiving, reviewing, and providing recommendations on grants to the St. Joseph Foundation board.