



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

2026 GRANT ELIGIBILITY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Since 1977, The Houston Project Committee of St. Luke's United Methodist Church has granted funds to not-for-profit charitable organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status whose work enhances the quality of life in the greater Houston area. The participation of St. Luke's United Methodist Church should make an appreciable difference in a proposed project. The work of the organization and the proposed project should demonstrate Christian values. Two grants for \$50,000 will be awarded by the Houston Project Committee. A total of \$100,000 in grant money will be distributed during the 2026 grant cycle. If chosen for a grant, we expect to develop meaningful relationships between your organization, those you serve and our members through donation or volunteer opportunities.

FUNDING POLICIES

The Houston Project Committee funding focus is guided by the following:

- We will fund new initiatives that address critical or basic needs in the Houston area (within Beltway 8). The committee will place higher value on programming/projects that:
 - empower participants through employment, lending, training and/or investing.
 - limit one-way giving to emergency situations.
 - listen closely to recipients you seek to support and preferably include the community in the decision-making process.
 - impact the Sharpstown/Gulfton community.
- We will fund the expansion of an existing program if it can be shown that such expansion will enhance the overall impact the program provides to the community and is sustainable.
- We will fund requests for existing programs if the request strengthens or grows a non-profit organization to improve its future performance, impact and sustainability of its mission and vision.
- We will fund small capital or renovation projects if these improvements significantly impact new or existing programming.
- We will **NOT** fund programming/projects that:
 - create dependency or disempowerment.
 - fund the maintenance of general overhead and operating expenses.
 - are for unrestricted funds for capital campaigns.
 - fund grants to individuals.

St. Luke's Community Partners will only be considered for a Houston Project Grant if the funding is for significant expansion of services or new programming.

Organizations may receive a Houston Project grant once every three years. For example, organizations receiving grants in 2025 may not be considered for funding until 2028.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

The organization and the project for which funds are requested must exhibit:

- High probability for a successful program.
- Sound financial accountability and program evaluation.
- Qualified staff and responsible Board of Directors.
- How the grant will make an appreciable difference to the project.
- How the program will fulfill a need in the community.
- Opportunities for St. Luke's members to volunteer in a meaningful way

PROCESS AND TIMEFRAME

Organizations seeking grants from The Houston Project must submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to St. Luke's United Methodist Church by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026**. Incomplete Letters of Interest will not be considered. (Note: This is a 2-page application. No additional documentation should be submitted with the Letter of Interest).

- Original Letters of Interest (2 pages only) must be emailed to cautry@stlukesmethodist.org in PDF format by the date and time indicated above. Please "Request a Read Receipt" to confirm the submission of the LOI.
- The Houston Project Committee will review all LOIs in March 2026 and will select agencies for further review. Agencies will be notified in writing as to the status of their application. Those agencies selected for further review will receive a Full Grant Application invitation in April 2026.

FINAL GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS (if selected)

- Final Grant Applications and accompanying documentation must be submitted to St. Luke's UMC by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2026. Incomplete grant applications will not be considered.
- Agencies selected for further review should be prepared to present to the committee at St. Luke's UMC on September 16, 2026. Alternatively, an organization may request to host the Houston Project Committee at their agency for 30-minutes on September 18, 2026. Sufficient time will be given in advance to coordinate these visits.
- The Houston Project Committee will meet throughout September to review the Grant Applications and will vote on funding in late September.
- By Friday, October 9, 2026, all applicants will be notified in writing of the status of their application. If a grant is awarded, a check will be mailed to the organization by December 1, 2026.
- Grant recipients will be asked to attend St. Luke's Houston Project Recognition Sunday in January 2027. Recipient organizations will be given the opportunity to speak to the congregation and share their mission and vision.
- Grant recipients will be asked to submit a written report to the Committee by December 31, 2027, detailing the progress or completion of the project.

The Houston Project Committee regrets that the number of worthy requests far exceeds the funds available. A decision not to fund a request should not reflect on the value of the agency or the project. Thank you for your interest in partnering to make our community a better place through The Houston Project.