



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
2354 Grove Road
Allentown, PA 18109-3044



6261 MINISTRY COMMUNITY MICROGRANT INSTRUCTIONS & EXAMPLES

6261 MICROGRANT DETAILS & EXAMPLES

Microgrants are small grants of **up to \$1,500** for which our ecumenical 6261 Ministry Communities can apply. These are intended to provide seed money or matching funds to help launch or further the 6261 Ministry Community's primary ministry project - something no individual congregation can tackle alone but together is possible.

Examples of primary ministry projects include justice-oriented initiatives such as providing affordable housing or weaving several individual food pantries and community gardens into a food web ministry to address food insecurity and food deserts. Other examples include a focus on engaging and welcoming young people, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ communities. Still other examples center on advocacy or accompaniment ministries that address poverty, mental health, suicide, addiction, or summer childcare gaps.

So often God gives us all the gifts we need – in community – not just in our individual congregation. When we lift up the combined resources of all 6 congregations – financial, time, community connections, buildings, special gifts like grant writing – some of these major justice areas God calls us to address are suddenly feasible.

For 6261 Ministry Communities still in discernment about their primary ministry project, we imagine that these 6261 Microgrants might offset the cost to determine what the needs are in their community; what gifts and resources they have collectively; and how God might be calling their gifts to meet those needs. Examples of possible 6261 Microgrants in this category include a discernment retreat; a dinner meeting hosting several agencies in the area; a workshop/educational event on how to deepen community relations through relationship and living out of our baptismal callings; or other innovative, grassroots, diaconal ministry ideas.

ELIGIBILITY

Any Ecumenical 6261 Ministry Community – whether formed (and Covenanted) or still in discernment (has a Joint Exploration Team) of the NEPA Synod can apply for a 6261 Microgrant. Ecumenical 6261 Ministry Communities are defined as 6261 Ministry Communities who are made up of ELCA and full-Communion ecumenical congregations.

Full-Communion ecumenical partners include the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church, the Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ (UCC), and the United Methodist Church. 6261 Ministry Communities who are formed across Synod and ecumenical judicatory lines are also eligible. There simply must be at least one (1) congregation of the 6261 Ministry Community who is a member congregation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA and at least one (1) congregation/parish/church who is a member of one of the ELCA's full-Communion ecumenical partners.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested ecumenical 6261 Ministry Communities must submit the 6261 Microgrants Application and requested Attachments for their Application to be considered. Applications are reviewed on an ongoing, first-come first-serve basis due to the short timeframe these 6261 Microgrants are available. All applications must be received no later than December 15, 2025 to be considered. Applications are reviewed by the 6261 Microgrants Team. More information on 6261 Microgrants and other 6261 Ministry Community grant opportunities are listed on the Synod website: www.godslove.org/6261grants.

Applicants can expect to receive communication that their application has been received and also will be notified of the decision by the Microgrants Team within two to three (2-3) weeks of submitting their Application. Applicants can expect to receive funds within two (2) weeks of receiving their Microgrant Award letter.

Please remember that preference is given to Applicants who will use all their 6261 Microgrant funding by December 31, 2025. **All funding must be spent by May 31, 2026.** 6261 Microgrant recipients are also required to submit a final Microgrant Report within one (1) month of spending the full balance of the 6261 Microgrant.

For the quickest turn around time, please submit your Application via email to 6261grants@nepsynod.org instead of mailing it in.

If you have questions about your 6261 Microgrant idea, primary ministry projects, or would like to brainstorm ideas on what might be a good fit for your context and 6261 Ministry Community, please reach out to Deacon Kat Tigerman at kat@nepsynod.org.