

# AIC CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS • FAQs

**FAQs (frequently asked questions)** are being developed based on feedback and questions raised during the first Congregational Connections Grant process.

1. What are the Strategic Objectives? Strategic Objectives are the 6 areas of focus by which Acts In Common shapes its work. Strategic objectives are the areas of support Acts In Common provides to its member congregations and organizations.

2. What are examples of the kinds of programs that Acts In Common will fund?

**Strengthen Existing Ministries:**

Congregational events and programs, feeding programs, and/or other kinds of current ministries, etc.

**Congregational Leadership:**

Registration fees, transportation fees, conference support (if you are hosting an event), Licensed Lay Ministry (Southeast Michigan Synod training), Boundaries Training, Healthy Congregations trainings, etc.

**Contextual Ministry:**

Finding music, speakers, teachers and/or worship tools that speak to the needs of the community, etc.

**Financial Development:**

Securing experts in financial planning, leaders in strategic planning, etc. Support to assist congregations or ministries in financial structures, best practices, audits, etc.

**Maximizing Resources:**

i.e. Our Kitchen Sync, Salem Retreat Center, speakers or other professionals with expertise in these areas.

**New Ministry Development:**

Creating new opportunities, such as changing worship formats, securing expertise in these areas and/or supporting new ideas.

3. What are the priorities and what kinds of projects do they include?

**Lay Leadership Development:** Trainings such as Licensed Lay Ministry (ELCA)

**Youth and Young Adults Ministry:** ELCA Youth Gathering, Michigan Youth Gathering, Summer Program Support

**Metro Detroit Food and Spirit:** Community Gardens, Kitchen Licensing, etc.

4. What are outcomes? Outcomes state what's anticipated to happen if everything goes as planned. *For example*, if your program is to host a Saturday morning youth gathering, one outcome may be to have 30 youth, aged 3-15 present every Saturday for six weeks. Answers to outcomes are based on the rationale to present this program in the first place.

5. What is the "need" section supposed to say? This section tells the grant reviewer "why this is important". What can be shared as a basis for this project? What homework has been done that supports the need to have this project? Who has indicated it's a program they want to participate in?

6. Community and Church Partners. Share in your proposal any partners you have in this endeavor. Organizations that work together often have more positive results.

7. Funding. What are the sources needed to make this happen? Where is the funding coming from?