

# Mission Opportunity Fund Criteria

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The application form that follows is solely for use in relation to an application that meets the objectives and principles of the Mission Opportunity Fund. Those objectives and principles are as follows.

The general objective of the fund is to support the mission of the Church of England in Essex and East London. The fund's overriding objectives are:

- The mission development of a new church congregation in an existing or new community
- The mission development of a new ministry within an existing parish church (e.g. youth work, schools' work or parent and children ministries) directed at reaching people where the Christian presence needs strengthening.
- The mission development of network ministries (e.g. ministry among employment, leisure, recreation, or consumer networks which are not tied to a narrow geographical location).
- The support of other mission initiatives that are particularly focussed on the development of Christian community among people who are not currently part of the life of a church.

Subsidiary to that overriding objective the first level of principles are that the MOF is for:

- The funding of new Church of England initiatives that promote mission and evangelism.
- The encouragement of collaborative initiatives between Church of England parishes and deaneries.

The second level of principles (and subject to the above);

- Grants should be made across the Diocese of Chelmsford with the Assessment Committee (see below) keeping a rough balance between the three Areas.
- After the agreed funding period initiatives must either become self financing or become part of the mainstream budget.
- Every grant to be subject to an annual review aimed at monitoring success against initial targets and if necessary making recommendations or even terminating funding.
- All grants to be subject to some form of partnership funding. Every initiative should be backed by some money from the initiators. This does not necessarily mean matched funding although where possible that should be aimed for. A partnership is preferable to a donation and tends to lead to far greater success. The Assessment Committee should be satisfied that the initiators have put in as much of their own money as is reasonable in the circumstances and in any event a minimum of £500 or 20% of the project (whichever is the higher).
- Partnership funding should not be at the expense of parish/deanery Share and grants will not normally be considered where there is a history of shortfall.
- One off short term projects need to demonstrate a longer term benefit and a follow up structure.

- It is acceptable for leaders to have carried out a pilot before applying to the MOF. In some cases it is advisable that one is carried out before applying. It must have taken place no more than twelve months prior to the submission of an application.
- The proposed initiative must be consistent with the Deanery Vision documents for the Deanery (or Deaneries) involved. Confirmation of this is required and the Area Dean's signature should be given to support the application (see below).
- The initiative should also be in line with the strategic priorities outlined in the Transforming Presence (<http://www.transformingpresence.org.uk/index.html>)