

**Request for Thriving Learning Community Grant Resources**

**Thank you** for your interest in becoming a bridge-builder for a thriving mission! This is an exciting opportunity for all in the Diocese of Saint Cloud. Your big ideas and big dreams are important, and we want to hear about one that you would like to develop and implement. This big idea or big dream does not need to be new. It may be an idea that builds on something already in progress or recently completed. This could be a second stage of development. Forming a *Thriving Learning Community (TLC)* to brainstorm is a first step to developing this **Request for Thriving Learning Community Grant Resources.** Use it as a guide for shaping your big idea, big dream.Your first submission will be a DRAFT proposal.Once it is received, you will be assigned a member of the *Thriving Care Team* who will review the request and accompany you in developing your initiative, the processes and activities as needed. The *Thriving Care Team* member and financial resources up to $1500 - $2000 provide stewardship and creativity for mission development in local areas.

**Where do we begin?** At the end! Perhaps you are feeling the end of this project seems so far away. The idea is to start with your big idea or big dream and move backwards from there to develop the plan.   
By doing so, a TLC can mentally prepare for transformation and/or change and map out specific milestones that need to be achieved. Additionally, this backward design process also allows one to identify where they need to be energetic and creative to achieve the desired results in the plan.

**What is a Thriving Learning Community (TLC)?** They are a group of people from across the dioceses or within an ACC that desire to build strong relationships with communities as well as with new neighbors, discern new structures and process, discover ways to welcome all Catholic people, and form community partnerships for service.

**What are the steps?** 1) Pull together a group of people who want to form a Thriving Learning Community (TLC) and invest in becoming bridge-builders for a thriving mission. Brainstorm big ideas and big dreams. Get buy in on the big ideas or big dream. 2) Fill out and submit the **Request for Thriving Learning Community Grant Resources.** This is a DRAFT! 3) Once received, a member of the *Thriving Care Team* will accompany you in the final development of your proposal and with other details as needed along the way. 4) You are ready to begin. All reimbursements requests must be accompanied by a receipt.

☼ We (Maria and Elsie) met a Latinx/Hispanic spiritual director during their time in the Emmaus Institute. They began thinking about their brothers and sisters in Christ who speak only Spanish and have a difficult time find a Spanish speaking pastor for spiritual care. Our big idea is to train Latinx people to accompany our people in their spiritual journey. We to make this happen by finding the resources and people for training us. We are open to other people joining this TLC to make this possible.

☼ We (ACC) would like to develop a spirituality of stewardship for our parishes rather than just thinking about stewardship as money. We want to begin dreaming with the finance council, stewardship committee and pastoral leadership to develop an ACC mission.

☼ We (Parish Business Managers) would like to develop a professional gathering quarterly to build competencies and understand how to integrate the mission of the Gospel with administrative work. Our big question is” “How to understand administration as ministry?”

**Big ideas**

**Examples**

**Is there a deadline for submitting a grant proposal?** Grant applications will be received through 2026 on a rolling basis as they are received by the Director, Bridge-Builders for a Thriving Mission in consultation with the Diocesan Director, Pastoral Planning.

**What are the goals of the Bridge-Builders for a Thriving Mission Initiative?**

1. Guide and coach ACC and parish teams as they form learning communities to build strong relationships, discern new structures and process, discover ways to welcome all Catholic people, and form community partnerships for service.
2. Provide ongoing formation in pastoral leadership and invite people to discern their callings to parish leadership, with attention to Hispanic leaders.
3. Offer resources and thriving learning communities’ opportunities to ministry groups across the Diocese to explore innovative ideas (e.g., parish business managers, directors of faith formation, deacons, parish secretaries).
4. Provide formation in five Benedictine practices that can form communities of disciples who can discern wisely how to live the Gospel in this place and time.

**Online application**

The online application may be filled out and submitted at:

[**https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/6AZVUQ3V8U**](https://www.csbsju.edu/forms/6AZVUQ3V8U)

The application is also presented below if you would prefer to print it out and mail it to:

Dr. Barbara Sutton  
Saint John’s School of Theology and Seminary  
Emmaus Hall  
2966 Saint John’s Road  
Collegeville MN 56321

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Barbara Sutton at 320-363-3052 or [bsutton@csbsju.edu](mailto:bsutton@csbsju.edu). You will find more information at <https://www.thrivingmission.org/>

**Application to be printed out, filled in and mailed:**

1. Organization/ACC/Parish requesting resources:

2. Person coordinating this request:

3. E-mail address:

4. Phone (daytime):

5. When did you come up with this big idea?

* In the last month
* During an ACC planning meeting
* In the last 3 to 6 months
* It has been brewing for a while.

6. What is the big question or big idea that you are exploring? What is the bridge you want to build? Where will your project, ideas and activities take place? What impact will this make on the mission of the Diocese of Saint Cloud?

7. Which goal (see above) of the Bridge-Builders for a Thriving Mission does this request explore? (Circle)

1 2 3 4

8. Who is part of the brainstorming for the big question or big idea?

9. Who else do you anticipate involving in this process?

10, What are the things that need to be completed to explore the big question or the big idea? What is the first milestone that you anticipate? What is the second milestone that you anticipate? Are there other milestones?

In what ways would you want the *Thriving Care Team* to assist you during the development and implementation of this big idea or big question process? There are many moving parts to the development of your big question and big ideas. The following questions will help the *Thriving Care Team* assist your *Thriving Learning Community* (TLC) with facilitation and resources. Your responses will *not* prevent you from being awarded the request, rather it will help the *Thriving Care Team* to know best how to develop and serve the facilitation of your big idea or big questions. Please check your response to each statement.

**11. I am confident in my ability to facilitate a big idea or big question that will assist build a bridge -builder for a thriving mission.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |

**12. I am confident in my ability to estimate the amount of startup funds necessary to start this initiative.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |

**13. I am confident in my ability to estimate the interest, energy and need for this big idea, big dream within the Diocese of Saint Cloud.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |

**14. I am confident in my ability to explain my big idea, or big dream clearly and concisely in written form.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |

**15. I am confident in my ability to develop a strong network of individuals with the necessary skills to help me with this *Bridge-Builders for a Thriving Mission* initiative.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |

**16. I am confident in my ability to develop a plan for implementing our big idea, big question.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |

17. Financial Resources are available to assist you in the development and implementation of your process (up to $2000): These can be used for meetings, food, mileage, resources, guest speaker stipend, etc. All expenses will need receipts to be reimbursed. After completing your design, build your budget using the chart below.

**Budget Narrative for anticipated expenses:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Cost | Purpose |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

18. Evaluation: How will you know if you are successful implementing this big idea, big question? How will you measure it?

19. Who else needs to be kept in the loop about your Thriving Learning Community?