

Excerpts from an example successful application

Summarize the innovative project's goal or purpose in 20 words or less. What is the vision?

Feeding the underserved and creating a place of extravagant welcome for diverse community members

How many people are on your planning and implementation team for this project?

Nine people, 6 from St. Stephens and 3 from wider community

Catalyst has a strong preference for projects that represent partnerships between local congregations and their wider communities. Tell us about your project partners - who is involved in or supporting this project from the wider community?

...We receive support from the food pantries at Bible Presbyterian Church in Merrill and the Merrill Area Food Pantry. We receive volunteer support from and provide meals for HAVEN, a Merrill shelter for abused/endangered women and children. ... We provide meals as possible with transportation from the Merrill Area Homeless Center (MAC Home) and offer fellowship and support for their temporary residents. ... [The local radio station] regularly features Dinner at Five on their community billboard and supports the program by advertising and promoting it through on air interviews and announcements. [The local newspaper] provides a discounted ad listing the menu for the week and any special acknowledgement of meal sponsorships.

How does this project speak to these stated priorities for project funding that the Catalyst Team has identified? • Building upon or initiating partnership efforts between congregations and their communities • Responding to the Wisconsin Conference's justice initiatives (immigration, racial justice, & climate change) • Empowering leaders to lead within congregations, communities and the conference

In addition to the above community partnerships, we plan on working with the Catholic church ministry that is now reaching out to the growing Hispanic community. We are having our flyers translated into Spanish and will distribute them through the help of the Ministerium partners to this community. Responding to the Wisconsin Conference's justice initiatives: The socio-economic diversity we already have in our ministry is a direct reflection of the commitment the Dinner at Five leaders have in this regard. ...

The Catalyst Team is open to funding a range of projects at a variety of levels. What percentage of this project will be funded by this Catalyst Grant?

Because of the exorbitant expense of the new ovens St. Stephens UCC is taking on, the uncertainty of the donations we may receive and the costs of restarting the program, we are seeking 33% of the total anticipated expenses

Assuming your project succeeds in its initial development phase, describe your plan for sustainable funding beyond the initial Catalyst grant funds.

...We have created a database of local service organizations and businesses which we plan to use to solicit donations for Dinner at Five. Once the program is up and running again...we are confident the Merrill community will step up with support for the program. In a new initiative, we will be offering businesses, school groups, church groups and service clubs "sponsorships" of meals with the appropriate acknowledgements in our advertising and social media posts. We are confident this funding stream will sustain the program moving forward after this year of transition.