



Grant Information and Application Instructions

Grant Timeline

Application Period Opens: November 07, 2025

Letter of Intent to Apply Deadline: February 27, 2026

Full Application Deadline: March 27, 2026

Announcement of Awards: during the month of May 2026

Grant Amount: \$5,000 - \$20,000 over a 2-year period

Estimated Total Number of Grant Awards: no more than 3 per Grant period cumulative total of \$20,000

Title: GFS Outreach Grant for Girls (hereafter referred to as Grant)

Background & Purpose:

GFS Outreach is a program of Girls' Friendly Society in the Diocese of Los Angeles (GFS-LA), which is an organization that supports GFS activities and branches at churches in this diocese where all girls (age 5-21) can learn, play, worship, and study in a safe and supportive environment. It is part of Girls' Friendly Society of the United States of America (GFS-USA), founded in 1877 by an Episcopal woman, Elizabeth Edson. GFS-USA is listed as a Network on the Episcopal Asset Map, is closely affiliated with Episcopal Church Women (ECW), and is in relationship with GFS organizations in over 30 countries worldwide.

GFS believes in the value of each human being, the richness of a diverse community, and the importance of the development of the whole girl to become leaders of the future. Although the GFS-LA program has been successful for over 100 years, participation has diminished over the last few years. As a result, GFS Outreach seeks to partner in a new way with Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Los Angeles by issuing grants to churches to create innovative programs to support the personal development of girls in our communities.

To learn more about GFS, visit these sites:

www.gfscalifornia.org www.gfsus.org www.gfsworld.org

The purpose of this Grant is to support innovative long-term programs which provide a structure in which girls find community and support to grow into confident, independent, responsible, resilient, and compassionate women.

The steps of the Grant Process are:

1. The Grant application and FAQs are posted on www.gfscalifornia.org
2. An Episcopal church in the Diocese of Los Angeles submits a Letter of Intent (LOI) and a Letter of Support (LOS) to apply for the Grant to grants@gfscalifornia.org
3. The GFS Grant Committee reviews the materials received to determine which applicants will move to Step 3.
4. A Full Grant Application will be requested by the GFS Grant Committee of applicants that are approved to move forward in the process.
5. The Grant Applicant(s) meet with the GFS Grant Committee.
6. The GFS Grant Committee identifies potential Grantee(s)
7. The GFS Grant Committee works with the potential Grantee(s) to determine agreed-upon milestones for funding and to discuss the financial support the Grant Applicant (church) will provide.
8. Final agreements and acceptance of Grant by both the Grant Applicant and the GFS Grant Committee.
9. Grant funding will occur based on the agreed-upon milestones.

Program Goal

The applicant program should meet the primary GFS Outreach program goal:

Creation of a community for girls and/or young women (through high school graduation) to find friendships, develop relationships, and support each other. (GFS Motto: Bear Ye One Another's Burdens and So Fulfill the Law of Christ *Galatians 6:2*)

The GFS Grant Committee is open to a wide range of ideas, which might include but are not limited to:

- Emotional Support and Mentorship
- Deepening of Spiritual and Ethical Practices
- Leadership Skill Development
- Personal Development through Community Service and/or Activism
- Enhancement of Life Skills in order to Navigate and Succeed in the 21st Century
- Physical or Other Skill Building Activities

Eligible Applicants and Program Leaders

The applicant must be an Episcopal church (parish or mission) in the Diocese of Los Angeles. The applicant church must have adequate insurance and policies and procedures (Safe Church Training, fingerprinting, etc.) in place to provide the protections required by the Diocese of Los Angeles. The Program Leader must be associated with or enjoy the recommendation of a church within the Los Angeles Diocese of the Episcopal Church. The church applicant vouches for and takes responsibility for the Program Leader, including background checks and Safe Church Training for all leaders.

Call for Letters of Intent (LOI) to Apply- Due February 27, 2026

The first step of the process is for the applicant church (parish or mission) to submit a LOI (maximum 2 pages), signed by a vestry/bishop's committee member, describing a two-year pilot program that provides a structure in which girls find community and support to grow into confident, independent, resilient, responsible and compassionate young women. The church will oversee and be responsible for the proposed program.

The proposed program should support the **Program Goal** listed above. The GFS Grant Committee will consider a wide range of ideas.

1. The LOI must include:
 - A description of the personal development program, including planned activities and curriculum (if any) to be used
 - An explanation of how the program will meet the Program Goal listed above
 - The age group to be served, within the range from kindergarten through high school graduation
 - A description of the Program Leader's role and the name of the prospective Program Leader, if available, along with a description of the Program Leader's experience with youth
 - A description of other staffing (paid, volunteer, quantity, skills)
 - A description of the site and space for the program (at the church, off-site, classroom, outdoor space, etc.)
 - An overview budget
2. The LOI must be accompanied by a Letter of Support (LOS) from the rector/vicar of the church outlining the need for the program, the resources the church can provide, and the desired impact of the program.

LOIs qualifying for further consideration will be invited by the Grant Committee to continue to the next step of the application process, which will be a detailed application including a meeting with the Grant Committee.

Please read the following specifics which will be requested in the Full Grant Application. Do not submit a LOI if the following information cannot be provided in the Full Grant Application.

Eligible Applicants and Program Leaders

The applicant must be an Episcopal church (parish or mission) in the Diocese of Los Angeles. The applicant must have adequate insurance and policies and procedures (Safe Church Training, fingerprinting, etc.) in place to provide the protections required by the Diocese of Los Angeles. The Program Leader must be associated with, or enjoy the recommendation of, a church within the Los Angeles Diocese of the Episcopal Church. The church vouches for and takes responsibility for the Program Leader, including background checks and Safe Church Training for all leaders and volunteers.

Eligible Use of Funds and Funding Requirements

- The budget submitted with the Full Grant Application should itemize costs for materials, equipment, leader and staff compensation, etc.
- The applicant church can request no more than \$20,000 for the two-year Grant period.
- The applicant church will be expected to provide meaningful financial resources for the program, to be determined by agreement between the applicant church and GFS
- Grant Funds will be released based on an agreed-upon schedule and milestones
- An itemized accounting for prior-released funds must be submitted before additional funds are released per the milestone schedule. Supporting invoices must be presented upon request.

The Grant is not intended to support or fund:

- Sunday School programs or any other existing program
- Programs that lack a component to nurture spiritual and ethical growth, compassion, and responsibility
- Compensation already in place for existing positions or roles of church staff, part-time staff or any other church employees or consultants
- GFS Grant funds cannot be used to pay general parish costs (rent, utilities, etc.).
- GFS Grant funds cannot be used for building or building renovations
- Programs with less than a workable core number of participants

Additional Information to be requested in Full Grant Application / Program Requirements

- A detailed two-year plan (monthly or quarterly) of the program including activities and curriculum (if any) to be used
- A detailed explanation of how the program meets the Program Goal listed at the top of page two
- A description of the spiritual component of the overall program and at each meeting
- The Program Leader's name and resume and that person's relationship to the church
- An explanation of how the program will provide a safe, healthy, and appropriate environment for girls and comply with Diocesan Safe Church Policies and Insurance Requirements
- An explanation regarding the choice of the age group to be served, within the range from kindergarten through high school graduation
- The program should include regularly scheduled **in-person** meetings and a description of the length and style of the program meetings
- Description of location and space for the program
- The amount of financial resources the church will provide for the program
- Proposed schedule and milestones for funding (refer to **Eligible Use of Funds and Funding Requirements** above)
- A description of how the program will be funded to become a self-sustaining program after the end of the Grant Period

Contact: GFS Grant Committee Chairperson: Martha M. Watson grants@gfscalifornia.org