

# MARY'S PENCE MINISTRY GRANT GUIDELINES

## PHILOSOPHY OF FUNDING

Mary's Pence is a grassroots organization that promotes social justice by directing donated resources to small women's projects in the Americas. We focus on ministries that directly impact quality of life. With women's guidance, we offer resources and training that increase their economic power, foster their education and expand their leadership as they transform their lives, the lives of their families and their communities. Funding decisions are rooted in a Catholic tradition of social justice together with feminist values where all are welcome at the table.

Mary's Pence believes small amounts of money invested directly in women-led ministries can have a huge impact. We believe that funding justice means taking risks and accepting challenges. We welcome innovative projects that focus on planting the seeds of sustainable systemic change. We like investing in the creation of something new to a community – new organizations, new programs, new structures, and new thoughts. We believe that there is power in community, and, when a project is accomplished through collaboration, each participant gains strength.

## MINISTRY GRANT GUIDELINES

### **Purpose**

Mary's Pence funds projects that increase the economic security of women and increase women's voice in their community. We support efforts for systemic change that improves the status of women.

### **Amount and Timing**

Ministry Grants are awarded year-round with a maximum award of ordinarily \$4,000 to organizations that have a budget under \$150,000 and receive less than 50% of their funding from government, church, a parent organization, or foundation sources. Grantees may receive only one grant per year but may reapply to receive up to a maximum of three grants. Study Grants will be given on a limited basis.

## WHAT WE VALUE IN OUR PARTNERS

Mary's Pence is rooted in Catholic social justice and in the feminist values of participation, mutuality, sustainability, integration, and stewardship. Embracing and demonstrating one or more of these values is an important criterion for us as we evaluate grant applications; however, no single project can focus effectively on all items below.

### **Participation**

- Strengthens women's voice in their families and communities.
- Supports full participation of group in decisions affecting the group.

### **Mutuality**

- Fosters the learning and empowerment that happens when women together to solve problems.
- Understand that we're all in this together, we each give and we each receive.
- Builds networks among women or women's groups in a community.

### **Sustainability**

- Focuses on projects that build the common good and improve the well-being and economic sustainability of the community as a whole.
- Works to change systems, organizations, or norms within a community in a way that empowers women and creates economic security for women and families.

### **Integration**

- Integrates economic sustainability with human rights and human dignity – the right to healthy food, clean water, decent housing, healthcare, education, meaningful work.
- Connects with supporting resources, such as organizations offering health care, empowerment, spiritual development, and stewardship of the earth as our home.

### **Stewardship**

- Measures success by the effects on families and communities rather than profit or repayment rate. It leaves the community as a whole better off than before.
- Protects the environment, keeps the air and water clean, the grass and trees lush, and the food sources healthy.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

An application is available at [www.maryspence.org](http://www.maryspence.org), by calling 651-788-9869, or emailing [inbox@maryspence.org](mailto:inbox@maryspence.org).

- Electronic applications are preferred, but hard copy is accepted.
- Grants are awarded 3 times per year, in March, July and November (applications due the first of the previous month).
- Copies of this application are available in Spanish.
- Grant Applications are accepted in English or Spanish.

PLEASE SEND YOUR APPLICATION BY EMAIL, FAX, OR HARD COPY TO:  
Mary's Pence, 275 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street #707, St. Paul, MN 55101  
Fax: 651-222-9232 or E-mail: [inbox@maryspence.org](mailto:inbox@maryspence.org)

If you have question please call Katherine Wojtan at 651-788-9869