



OPERATION ROUND UP® RELIGIOUS PURPOSE POLICY

FUNDING FOR FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

GUIDANCE FOR POTENTIAL GRANTEES:

Stearns Electric Association's service territory is fortunate to be home to a wide variety of faiths and faith-based organizations that serve our communities. Our member-driven Operation Round Up® program does provide funding to faith-based groups that meet certain guidelines for community-wide, charitable purposes; we do not allow funding for direct religious purposes.

To assist faith-based organizations in determining eligibility to receive funding, we have included a sample list of program characteristics and descriptions as a guide. The list is not comprehensive; we encourage you to contact the Operation Round Up® Coordinator at Stearns Electric should you have questions about your organization's funding eligibility.

Characteristics of eligible programs may include but are not limited to:

- May be located in a house of worship;
- Must separate religious programs from non-religious programs;
- May use the same room, but not at the same time, for religious and non-religious programs;
- Are open to all and inclusive, regardless of religious affiliation, displaying an attitude of welcome and hospitality to all members of our communities;
- Abstain from religious worship, religious instruction, or recruitment;
- Eliminate any required statements of belief from participants.

Descriptions of faith-based programs previously funded include but are not limited to:

- A food bank operating out of a faith-based ministry;
- Case management for families at a faith-based social service agency;
- A senior dining program operated by a faith-based organization;
- Community wide after school programming and tutoring within a house of worship;

Programs who review these guidelines and deem themselves eligible may complete the Operation Round Up® grant application. All submitted grant applications are reviewed according to established protocol.