

Peer Learning Group Support Proposal Information

What is Offered?

A limited amount of funding is available to support CBF-related peer learning groups. Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis during the application deadlines specified below. A maximum of \$500 may be requested.

Program Dates for 2011-12

Proposals are currently being accepted for group activities between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012.

Deadlines:

Proposals for 2011-12 funding must be submitted prior to August 30, 2012. (However, proposal submission between November 2011 and May 2012 is preferred). Grant funding will be dispersed no earlier than the 1st quarter of 2012.

Proposals should be submitted electronically by the deadline above to Karen Harwell at kharwell@thefellowship.info. Word or PDF formats are preferred. Proposals should also be sent to the regional coordinator of PLGs in your area.

Proposal Template

In order to provide the best support and information regarding the effectiveness and activities of peer learning groups, specific information is requested from each group submitting a proposal. A template outlining needed information can be found [here](#).

Tips & Ideas

Each group's activities are as unique as its members. Most groups meet monthly over a meal (usually lunch) and spend several hours in encouraging discussion. Groups often read and discuss books related to ministerial and personal spiritual growth, discuss and review resources, spend time in focused prayer, and allow time for social fellowship. Groups often plan at least one longer-term event each year—usually a retreat or day-long workshop. Often a special holiday gathering is arranged for group members and their families. Several unique ideas are listed below:

- Annual retreat (usually focused on Sabbath and prayer; 1-day, 2-day, or weeklong retreats),
- Attending a specialized workshop or conference as a group,
- Guest speaker on timely topic,
- Facebook discussions in closed groups,
- Subsidy of travel for members who do not live close to the meeting site,
- Movie night.

Five tips for participating in a peer learning group can be found in a recent *Fellowship* [article](#).

Requirements:

1. [Member Information Forms](#) must be submitted from each group member.
2. Monthly reports - groups are required to submit monthly reports on activities to project director, Dr. Steve Graham (sgraham@thefellowship.info) with a copy to Karen Harwell (kharwell@thefellowship.info) and the your region's coordinator (Bill Bruster, Laura Stephens-Reed, or Layne Smith). Reports should include: convener name, meeting date and location, list of attendees, and information on the activities and focus of the meeting or event. Reports should also, as appropriate, discuss the impact certain activities and events having on increasing connection and encouragement for members.

Matching Funds

CBF does not require groups to seek or obtain matching funding in order to participate. However, several state and regional CBF organizations do have programs for matching funds. Please contact the state or regional coordinator directly for additional information on those programs. Individuals may also be able to request matching funds from their congregation or another local agency, as appropriate.

Regional Coordinators

For groups in KY, NC, SC, and VA contact: Layne Smith (cbfplg@aol.com)

For groups in AL, FL, GA, and TN contact: Laura Stephens-Reed (lstephensreed@gmail.com)

For groups in AR, IL, KS, MO, OK, and TX contact: Bill Bruster (bbruster@thefellowship.info)

For other states not listed, contact: Steve Graham (sgraham@thefellowship.info)