

LIFELINE Assistance : Proposal Guidelines

Sacramento District Church of the Nazarene

The Mission/Purpose of LIFELINE: The Sacramento District Church of the Nazarene encourages the creation of new churches and ministries that will focus on the mission of the Church; to unite lost people to God's love, and to make Christ like disciples in their communities. LIFELINE Assistance may be provided through a grant or loan to a qualifying local church by the Sacramento District Advisory Board.

The length of time for LIFELINE assistance may be for 1) a new church (2-3 years); 2) a refocus of an existing church (1-2 years); or 3) a special ongoing missional project (1-3 years).

A. The requirements for obtaining LIFELINE Assistance may include any or all of the following:

1. Engage in ongoing, intentional prayer sessions with a leadership team
2. Identify the targeted area in which you believe a church/ministry is needed
3. Begin meeting people in the target area (residents, business owners, community leaders)
4. Create a core leadership team of gifted, visionary leaders with accountability to each other
5. Complete a ministry assessment for any pastoral leaders to confirm spiritual gifts/abilities through:
 - a. USA/Canada Nazarene Church Planting, (<https://www.usacanadaregion.org/church-planting>), or
 - b. Dynamic Church Planting International (<http://www.dcpri.org>), or
 - c. Exponential (<http://www.exponential.org>).
6. Have leadership team members complete an online assessment to assist with identifying gifting and responsibilities of your team members such as ***Leading from Your Strengths*** (<https://www.ministryinsights.com/product/leading-from-your-strengths-profile/>) or ***Clifton Strengths*** (<https://www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths/en/252137/home.aspx>)
7. Create and present an ***Action Plan*** to the District Advisory Board (see Action Plan below).
8. Establish an ongoing relationship with an approved "coach" for development of the proposal.
9. Develop financial resources (regular local giving; capital campaign; district grant proposal).
10. Refresh your team's understanding of and commitment to biblical financial stewardship.
11. Establish ministries that will help accomplish the focus of the Action Plan.
12. Launch the new ministries/projects through extensive community advertisement/marketing.

B. The *Action Plan* for a Lifeline Proposal must include:

1. an understood mission and vision statement associated with the plan.
2. a specific time line to be associated with the proposal (if applicable).
3. a community or church survey in order to determine the feasibility of, and interest in the plan.
4. the completion of a LIFELINE Application.
5. detailed explanation of how any approved LIFELINE assistance funds will be budgeted.
6. an in-person presentation of the Action Plan in a District Advisory Board meeting.