



According to the Torah and subsequent Jewish law, every Jew is obligated to extend a helping hand to a person in need, Jew or non-Jew, and it is the inherent right of every person to be helped, "for there will never cease to be needy ones in your land, which is why I command you; open your hand to the poor and needy in your land."

Deuteronomy 15:11.

**Beth Emet The Free Synagogue
Tzedakah Fund
Grant Guidelines**

The purpose of the Beth Emet Tzedakah Fund is to support causes, organizations and projects that promote justice, equality and social well-being; to recognize each Jew's obligation to perform the mitzvah of *tzedakah* (righteous giving); and to encourage the members of Beth Emet to give tzedakah as a regular part of their lives.

The Fund makes grants to organizations that address problems of basic human needs through:

- Social Services by giving relief to the poor and help to victims of violence, injustice or disasters (natural or man-made)
- Social Action by educating the public, influencing public policy and advocating for social change.

Guidelines:

- To be eligible for a grant, organizations must have current IRS status as a 501(c)(3) entity and be able to demonstrate their financial stability (budget, financial reports).
- Organizations can be of any size but preference will be given to smaller not-for-profits.
- Geographic limitations: grantees are concentrated in Evanston and the Chicago metropolitan area, Israel.
- The maximum grant size is \$500 and each organization can receive one grant during each 12 month period.
- Funding is available for specific programs or projects; grants are not made for general operating expenses or sponsorships. Programs or projects can be new or ongoing.
- The organization should have a connection to Beth Emet – through the Board, synagogue committee, a synagogue professional (Klei Kodesh) or individual synagogue members on behalf of an organization.

Organizations wishing to apply must use the Tzedakah Fund Application Form. Forms are available either [online](#) or from the Beth Emet Office. Please include a program or project budget (detailing expenses and revenues), and (if applicable) an organizational budget. Any additional information or materials that explain your request may be included.

Completed applications and supporting materials can be submitted at any time during the year. The committee meets at least 2 times per year. Once received, applications will be considered at the next committee meeting.

One set of application/materials should be submitted to:

Tzedakah Fund Committee
Beth Emet Synagogue

1224 Dempster St.
Evanston, IL 60202

For more information, please leave a message with the Beth Emet Office at 847-869-4230. A Representative of the committee will return your phone call as soon as possible.