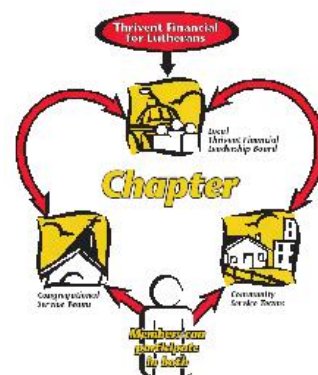


# CARE IN REGIONS

The **Care in Regions** program provides chapters with the opportunity to partner with other chapters and service teams in their region to address significant regional needs. The manager of Lutheran community services (MLCS) and chapters will collaboratively decide on which projects to support. Through this program members may receive financial support for hands-on service activities, appeals/collections and/or fund-raising activities to help meet the needs of individuals, families, or nonprofit organizations including congregations.



## Program Highlights

- ☑ **Care in Regions** is an annual program (January-December). Fund requests for each activity must be made by the second Friday of December of the calendar year. Final reporting and disbursement must be completed by March 31 of the following year.
- ☑ **Care in Regions** involves multiple chapters within a region addressing a significant need(s) in the region.
- ☑ The MLCS will request project approval from the Appleton office.
- ☑ The MLCS and the chapters in the region collaboratively agree upon activities to address significant regional needs.
- ☑ Chapter leadership boards or community service teams can submit their activity requests via phone or e-mail that support the project to the MLCS for approval.
  - Future plans are to have the ability to request funds electronically via the Members Only section of [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com).
- ☑ As chapters carry out their activities, there must be six or more Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members from different households to participate in the activity. These can be financial or associate members.
- ☑ Posters and bulletin inserts are available for order from the Appleton office for promoting activities.
- ☑ Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members and non-members can participate in activities once the six or more Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members from different households has been met.

## Funding Highlights

- ☑ After each activity has been completed and reported to the MLCS, the corporate office sends funds to the participating chapter leadership boards, which then disburse the funds accordingly.
- ☑ Funds need to be managed at the chapter level. Funds cannot be directed to the MLCS.
  - **Rationale:** Thrivent Financial for Lutherans operates under the “lodge system” and needs to do so to be exempt from income tax. Each chapter is a legal entity that conducts fraternal activities with support from the parent organization. The Care in Regions program funds are disbursed to chapters since the Care in Regions program funds regional multi-chapter projects.
  - A MLCS is an employee of the parent organization of Thrivent Financial, and not a chapter. Showing the income and expenses from these chapter activities as expenses of the regional financial office would not be correct for tax reporting. It would also be inconsistent with “operating under the lodge system.”
- ☑ Funds raised stay at the chapter and supplemental funds are disbursed to the chapter. In a hands-on activity the funds can be sent directly to the individual incurring the expenses.

If you have questions about the **Care in Regions** program, please contact the Fraternal Service Center at (800) 236-3736, ext. 5909.