



April 2014

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About NCM USA/Canada

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to live and act compassionately in the world following Christ's own life and ministry. We seek to be incarnations of the same gospel that Christ lived and preached and to be witnesses to the same love and compassion God has for our world.

In the United States and Canada, NCM works closely with Compassionate Ministry Centers (CMCs) to bring compassion and healing to communities that need the love and presence of Christ.

Mission

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada partners with Nazarene interests to facilitate ministries which address the temporal as well as the spiritual needs of the economically disadvantaged.

Churches

Local churches are the primary avenue for Nazarenes to reach

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

My Fellow Leaders,

How do we perform a community needs assessment? I believe this C.S. Lewis quote frames it well:

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get the Earth "thrown in." Aim at Earth and you will get neither."



Lead well,

Jay Height

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Coordinator, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada

Current Funding Opportunities

May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust supports organizations that work to enrich quality of life, promote self-sufficiency, and assist individuals in achieving their highest potential. Grants will focus on children and youth who are or have been in the foster care system, adults over age 60, military veteran and their families, and individuals with disabilities who are transitioning to adulthood living. Eligible locations include AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, TX, UT, WY, and WA. [Letter of Inquiry Guidelines](#)

Ruddie Memorial Youth Foundation seeks applications for innovative

out to those in their communities. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to support churches in starting and maintaining ministry to the under-served and marginalized. We believe every church, no matter size or budget, can find ways to meet needs in their community with compassion, creative, and the firm foundation and life-changing power of the Gospel message.

CMCs- Compassionate Ministry Centers

A Compassionate Ministry Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the under-resourced in the community. While these organizations are often affiliated with a specific local church, they are in a strategic position to unite others in their community around a high-needs cause.

NDR- Nazarene Disaster Response

Nazarene Disaster Response is Nazarenes mobilizing for disaster through Readiness, Response, and Recovery. Local Nazarenes are in a unique position to understand, serve, and remain with disaster victims in their own neighborhoods. In large-scale events the denomination can come alongside local efforts with the support of volunteers and donors from across the country and through our strong partnerships with other disaster relief agencies. NDR serves victims regardless of race, creed, or economic status by concentrating on assistance to the poor, elderly, and handicapped.

W&W- Work & Witness

Work & Witness provides opportunities for Nazarenes to serve together in support of existing ministries such as churches, CMCs, and Nazarene Disaster Response. Work & Witness can be any type of project, from construction to evangelism to compassionate outreach.

programs that help underprivileged youth reach their full potential. Eligible locations include Baltimore, Boston, Los Angeles, Madison, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. [Apply](#)

Deadline: April 30, 2014

Award Amount: \$25,000

Mary Kay Foundation is accepting applications for its 2014 domestic violence shelter grant program. [More information](#)

Deadline: April 30, 2014

Award Amount: \$20,000

U.S. Department of Labor Face Forward 2 Community Grants support projects that provide court-involved youth with case management, mentoring, educational interventions, service-learning, occupational training in demand industries, and workforce activities. [Full announcement](#)

Deadline: May 2, 2014

Award Amount: \$1.5M

American Honda Foundation Invites Applications for STEM Programs from nonprofit organizations for programs that support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. Environmental projects, job training, and literacy programs also will be considered. [More information](#)

Quarterly Deadline: May 1, 2014

Award Amount: Up to \$75,000

Kinder Morgan Foundation supports academic, arts education, and environmental education programs for grades K-12 in communities where the company operates. [Apply](#)

Application Deadline: May 10, 2014

Award Amount: \$1,000 - \$5,000

OVC 2014 Services for Victims of Human Trafficking grant supports programs working to increase autonomy and self-sufficiency among human trafficking victims through provision of comprehensive direct services. [RFP](#)

Application Deadline: May 15, 2014

Award Amount: \$200,000 - \$500,000 (24 months)

Matching Requirement: 25%

US Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program awards grants to State Education Agencies, which in turn manage statewide competitions for eligible local education agencies and community organizations to provide afterschool academic enrichment for children who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. State department of education contacts, websites, and application due dates available [here](#).

Community Needs Assessment

Practice Tools for Common Non-Profit Functions

Good data is the starting point for innovation and action. Information about people, their conditions, and concerns is essential to designing worthwhile solutions and services that address the actual needs of a community. Attempting to help others without sufficiently understanding their needs may waste resources and may actually have a negative effect on vulnerable populations. Needs assessments are useful for customizing interventions to the needs

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and circumstances of a particular community and for demonstrating to donors why financial support is warranted. Participatory needs assessment also provides the intended beneficiaries with a strong voice in determining the most relevant aims and approaches.

APEX Project Program Development Capacity Ratings for Needs Assessment

- **Level 1:** Ad hoc needs assessment process is completed that identifies your community's or target populations' needs, assets, and liabilities
- **Level 2:** A more formal assessment process is completed; a simple "needs statement" is written that describes the service gaps and affirms need for your particular program
- **Level 3:** Needs statement is periodically updated
- **Level 4:** Needs statement is periodically updated: program design and delivery evolve to meet the targeted population's needs

The aim of conducting a Community Needs Assessment is to identify and learn about community needs and problems that are connected to an issue that is important to the organization and the people it serves. Seek to understand the people you are trying to help and how best to build on their existing assets to encourage them to thrive.



A. Adapt these Key Questions to gather relevant information about the target issue:

1. What conditions or problems in the community have you noticed that concern you?
2. Why is this issue important to you and to the community?
3. What do you already know about the need or condition that you identified?
4. In order to take action and make a difference, what do you need and want to learn about?
 - What are the main problems that should be addressed?
 - What part of the population is affected by each problem?
 - How severe is the impact on the population?
 - How frequently and when does the problem occur?
5. What did you learn about the community need and how to address it?
6. What sources of information did you use to learn these things?
7. Which problems are the most important and should be addressed first?

8. What strategies can be used to improve the situation?

B. Decide what existing statistics and information gathering methods will help answer key questions.

Quantitative information can be captured numerically and is helpful for understanding the scope of the problem. This information helps describe what is happening in the population through examination of frequencies and characteristics of events. Methods include surveys, measurements, and spatial analysis.

Use existing standardized statistics to demonstrate whether the local need is greater than average. Compare local rates to those of states, the nation, and surrounding communities. **Data Sources**

Supplement existing statistics by gathering more specific information about the local community and intended beneficiaries of the project.

Creating Surveys || Standard Measures

Qualitative information about people and their communities allow best practices to be applied to specific situations by actively involving the target population in setting the agenda, defining questions, gathering information, analyzing information, and making decisions based on the information. This encourages local "buy-in" and helps to explain why the situation exists. Methods include observations and experiences, conversation and interviews.

Semi-Structured Interview Guide 1 & Guide 2

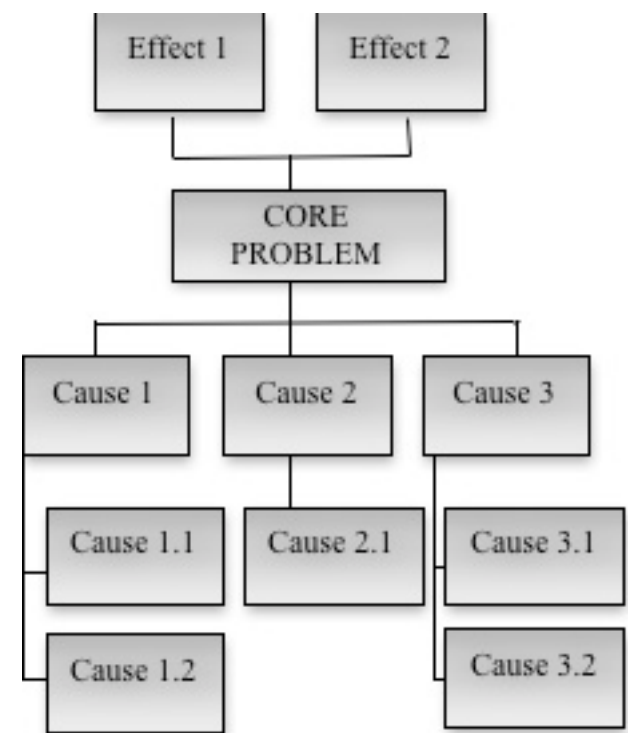
Focus Group Discussion Guide 1 & Guide 2

C. Gather baseline information about the current status of the community using selected methods

Reduce bias and obtain more accurate information by considering diverse perspectives. **Triangulation** can be achieved through using multiple tools to obtain information and by strategically deciding WHO to ask. Gather information from people who represent the diversity of a community based on gender, age, economic status, ethnicity, role, etc.

D. Analyze the problems that are identified

1. Identify negative aspects of an existing situation.
2. Form cause-effect relationships among problems.
3. Clearly identify the target group's **core problem**.
4. Detect the **root causes** of the problem.
5. List the **effects** the problem has on people.



Problem analysis aims to understand the causes of the core problem your project will address by asking WHY the situation is the way it is.

Core Problem: The main challenge preventing the desired situation from becoming reality. The Core Problem is the starting point for a project.

Root Causes: Underlying factors that have led to the current situation, not just the symptoms. Ask all relevant questions and make cause-effect links to identify short and long-term solutions.

Effects: Consequences or other problems created by the Core Problem.

E. Write a Needs Assessment Report

Tell the community's story including the most important patterns and variations.

- What is the situation and how do local people define the issues?
- What is the dominant pattern and what are notable variations?
- What causes the situation and when does it occur? Who is (not) involved?

Describe the causes and consequences of the situation.

- What factors affect the situation and how?
- What are the effects of the situation on the local population's well-being?
- What are the constraints to improving the situation?

Figure out how the information can be used.

- What are the implications of these findings on community well-being?
- How can this information be used to improve the situation?
- What have we learned that can make project interventions more effective?

Signature Themes: Updates & Tips

Food Security and Nutrition	<u>Guide to Measuring Household Food Security</u> <u>USDA Food and Nutrition Service Data</u>
Youth Development	<u>Kids Count Data Center</u> <u>OJJDP SMART System</u> <u>Find Youth Info</u> <u>Child Trends Positive Indicators Project</u>
Human Trafficking	<u>Polaris Project Hotline Statistics</u>
Disaster Response	<u>Disaster Risk Assessment Resources</u> <u>FEMA Training on Rapid Needs Assessment</u>
Appalachian Poverty	<u>Appalachian Regional Commission Research, Maps, and Data</u>
Addiction	<u>National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)'s Assessing Drug Abuse Within and Across Communities Appendix B provides a list of websites containing surveillance data related to drug abuse</u>
Economic Development	<u>U.S. Census Poverty Data</u> <u>Bureau of Labor Statistics</u>
Healthcare	<u>National Center for Health Statistics</u> <u>Directory of State Health Departments</u>

Donor Spotlight: Land O'Lakes Foundation

Food Security and Nutrition



Program Description	Land O'Lakes Foundation funds organizations that work to alleviate hunger as well as those focused on developing leadership among rural youth.
Eligibility	Funds national programs and programs in 25 states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas,

	Washington, Wisconsin
Application Deadlines	Hunger Proposals: July 1, 2014
<u>Land O'Lakes Foundation Community Grants Information</u>	

HUMAN TRAFFICKING • THE ROLE OF ENTERPRISE
URBAN FARM • AND OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES

SAVE THE DATE

2ND ANNUAL
MOBILIZING the CHURCH for
SOCIAL JUSTICE
CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2014
• NASHVILLE, TN •
TREVECCA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
\$99 Registration Fee (Includes Friday lunch & dinner)

so•cial jus•tice [soh•shuhl juhs•tis] *noun*
Social justice is about addressing inequalities,
repairing the broken systems that created them, and
restoring the world to the way God intended it to be.

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

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