# East Midland Baptist Association page1image25857696Digital Mission Grants (DMG)

# Guidance Notes

**Introduction**

* Digital Mission Grants will be given in order to encourage and enable Baptist Churches to respond to the mission opportunities within the digital world as part of their ongoing work and ministry. They will be one-off grants for new initiatives/projects or to further develop existing digital media (e.g. websites, social media etc.). These initiatives/projects must have a mission focus, in that their main aim should be to engage with people who are not yet Christians and who are not yet part of the Christian Church.
* Whilst any initiative/project will be considered, please note the following:

1. Priority will be given to those which fall into one of the following categories:
   1. Projects which will be undertaken/guided by an approved EMBA Digital Mission Consultant (DMC).
   2. Innovative and creative evangelistic initiatives.
   3. Initiatives which are intended to help alleviate poverty, loneliness and/or isolation and their effects. Where groups are excluded from resources or deprived of certain facilities, they may be regarded as poor for the purposes of these grants.
   4. Initiatives which engage, resource and release church members as digital missionaries in the digital world.
2. We are unlikely to fund:
   1. Subscriptions – for Zoom, StreamYard, Vimeo or the like where the main purpose of the subscription is to engage with those who are already Christians.
   2. Large projects – where such a grant is not going to make any significant difference.
   3. Initiatives/Projects which churches are clearly able to fully fund themselves.
   4. Initiatives/Projects which are not linked with a church’s ongoing mission strategy.
   5. Investment in hardware.

* The maximum amount awarded for a Digital Mission Grant for any one initiative/project is £500 and the amount granted must be at least match funded by the receiving church. A church would not normally apply for a Digital Mission Grant more than once in any three-year period.
* Please note that:

1. Any application will need an RM commendation, therefore before completing the application form, you should contact your Regional Minister who will discuss both the digital mission project and the application with you.
2. Applications for Digital Mission Grants will be considered at any point in the year. Grants are awarded outside of a Grants Group meeting and are approved by an RM, RTL and EMBA Treasurer. Grants awarded will be reported at Grants Group meetings.
3. Any funds that remain unspent twelve months after they have been given to the church should be repaid (subject to negotiation) so that the money can be used elsewhere.
4. The church will be asked to provide a progress report approximately twelve months after the grant has been paid.

## Completing the application form

**Note 1 – Church Information**

The church that makes the application must be in membership with the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) and the EMBA.

The decision to apply for an EMBA Digital Mission Grant should be made by either a Deacons’ Meeting (or equivalent) or a Church Members Meeting. Please indicate which meeting made this decision and when.

All churches requesting a grant should already be meaningfully supporting Home Mission. All churches who receive a grant **from** Home Mission should be contributing to the wider Baptist family **through** Home Mission. Some church accounts do not specify how much has been given to Home Mission so we are asking for this information to be given here as well as an indication of how much the church expects to give in the current year.

Please provide the requested information relating to safeguarding. The EMBA Directors have a responsibility when providing grant funding to churches to ensure that the recipient body has in place adequate safeguarding practices.

**Note 2 – The Project**

The ‘Brief Description of Project’ should only be one or two sentences.

The rest of this section is for you to tell us about the project. Helpful information will include the nature of the project, its aims and objectives, the number/type of people who will be contacted and/or helped and anything else that you think is relevant and will be helpful to those assessing the application. You will also need to explain how it fits into your church’s mission strategy.

**Note 3 – Costs**

**3.1** Please itemise the anticipated costs of the project:

Note that the maximum amount you can apply for is currently £500 and the grant awarded must be at least match funded by the receiving church.

It is important that the church can demonstrate that it has or can obtain\* the resources necessary to fund any start-up costs not covered by this grant.

**3.2** If the project is of an ongoing nature, it is important that the church can demonstrate that it can obtain\* the resources necessary to fund the continuing running costs of the project.

**3.3** Because EMBA only have a limited amount of money available, we want to ensure that it is given to those churches where it is most needed. This means we are unlikely to fund projects where the church’s accounts show it has the necessary resources to fund the project itself. This section gives the opportunity to explain why, if the church accounts show substantial reserves, the application should still be considered.

**3.4** Normally grants are given as soon as they have been agreed. However, if it would be more appropriate for the grant to be paid at a later date please indicate. If you are unsure at the time of application, then a date can be negotiated once the grant has been agreed.

*\* e.g. grants from other organisations, funds raised by the church, government funding.*

Please note that the application form should be signed by **both** the person named on the front page **and** the Minister or a church officer - Secretary or Treasurer. (If the applicant is one of these people then they should just sign twice!)

**Note 4 – Additional Information**

The first two documents on the list are **essential.**

Your application may be returned to you if they are not included.

**If you have any queries / questions relating to the grant process please contact your Regional Minister or Becky Nicholls (EMBA Administrative Support):**EMBA Office, c/o West Bridgford Baptist Church, Melton Road, West Bridgford, Notts NG2 7NF Email: bnicholls.emba@gmail.com Tel: 07763 401 793