2026 Leanne Storch Support Group Fund Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can apply for a Leanne Storch Support Group Fund (LSSGF) grant?
    - Pulmonary fibrosis (PF) and/or interstitial lung disease (ILD) support groups may apply for a LSSGF grant. Support groups are limited to one grant per funding year. Support groups must meet at least quarterly to qualify for the LSSGF grant.

2. What types of grants are available?
    - Support groups may apply for:
        i. *New Support Group Grant* ($500) – a grant that helps establish a new PF and/or ILD support group.
        ii. *Support Group Development Grant* ($750) – a grant to help an existing PF and/or ILD support group expand and extend its impact.

3. Who determines who receives the grant?
    - All applications will be reviewed and scored by the LSSGF Review Working Group. The LSSGF Review Working Group includes representatives from the PFF Support Group Leader Network and PFF staff. Please contact Molly Abrams at mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org if you are interested in learning more about joining the LSSGF Review Working Group.

4. I applied for a grant; how do I find out if my support group will receive funding?
    - A member of the LSSGF Review Working Group will reach out to you to schedule an interview. After your interview, a PFF staff member will notify you regarding the status of your application.

5. What can I use the grant funds for?
    - Grant funds can be used for starting and/or enhancing a support group. Below are some examples of how grant funds can be used. Note: This is not an exhaustive list of how the grant funds can be used. If you plan to use the funds for purposes not listed below, please contact Molly Abrams at mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org to confirm that funds can be used for this purpose.
        i. Snacks and drinks for group meetings
        ii. Luncheons/dinners, gift baskets in the absence of in-person luncheons/dinners

        a. *Please note: if any grant funds are used for in-person dining, a sign-in sheet for everyone who attended the meeting or event will need to be submitted along with the receipt(s) for the meal.*

    iii. Site rental fees
    iv. Electronics to enhance virtual meetings
    v. Honoraria for non-healthcare professionals (e.g., patients, caregivers, lung transplant recipients, other speakers)
    vi. Printing of flyers or promotional materials
    vii. Advertising of support group
    viii. Small gifts to promote support group participation, under $30 per gift (e.g., t-shirts, water bottles, notepads)
        a. Gifts may be purchased from the Shop PFF store
    ix. Flowers or other small gifts in honor of a support group member who has passed away
    x. Cards, flowers, or other small gifts for hospitalized or sick group members
    xi. Gift cards

6. Can we use the grant funds to provide honoraria to speakers?
    - Funded groups can use their grant funds to give honoraria to patients, caregivers, lung transplant recipients, and other non-healthcare professionals for speaking at their support group meetings.
    - Funded groups may not use grant funds for honoraria, stipends, or other payments to healthcare providers or healthcare organizations.

7. What are examples of expenses that cannot be covered through the LSSGF?
    - **Note: This is not a comprehensive list of expenses that cannot be covered through LSSGF grants. Please contact Molly Abrams at mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org if you have any questions about the acceptable use of a grant.**
    - Medical equipment and medical expenses: The LSSGF grant may not be used to pay for medical expenses. Medical expenses include, but are not limited to, medications, co-pays, medical procedures, pulmonary rehabilitation, medical equipment, and oxygen equipment. The grant funds are not intended to be used for any medical expenses for any individual.
    - Payment of healthcare providers or healthcare organizations.
    - Donations to nonprofit organizations over $50, including a donation made as a memorial gift.
    - Donations of any amount cannot be made to healthcare organizations.

8. When do I need to use all grant funds by?
    - The deadline to use all grant funds is December 31, 2026.

9. Do I need to submit receipts or report on how the grant is used?
    - Grant recipients must submit receipts and an official expense report by December 31, 2026, for all expenses paid using the grant. Receipts and the expense report can be submitted on a rolling basis throughout the year and should be received by the PFF prior to the deadline.
    - Receipts can be emailed to Molly Abrams at mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org or mailed to the PFF at 223 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 350, Chicago, IL 60606.
    - Grant recipients are asked to submit a report of how the funds were used and how they benefited the group. This report is separate from the submission of receipts and the expense report. The deadline to submit the report is January 15, 2027. The report is required for your support group to be considered for future grants. The report can be found here.

10. What should I do with unused grant funds?
    - Any unused grant funds, exceeding the amount of $50, should be returned to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation. Unused funds must be returned to the Foundation by January 15, 2027.
    - Checks for unused funds should be made out to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation and mailed to the PFF office to the attention of Molly Abrams at 223 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 350, Chicago, IL 60606.

Should you have any additional questions regarding the use of the Leanne Storch Support Group Fund grants or the process for applying for a grant, please contact Molly Abrams, Coordinator, Volunteer Programs, at mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org or 312.854.1940.