



## **2026 Leanne Storch Support Group Fund Guidelines**

### **About Leanne Storch and the Fund**

Leanne Storch was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis (PF) in January 2003. With a desire to positively impact those impacted by PF and interstitial lung disease (ILD), she joined the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (PFF) in 2004 and ultimately served as the Foundation's Executive Director from 2008 until 2010. Ms. Storch provided countless hours advocating on behalf of the PF and ILD community, including leading a support group for ten years. The Leanne Storch Support Group Fund (LSSGF), established in 2012, proudly honors the commitment of Ms. Storch. She received a lung transplant in 2014 and was a dedicated champion. The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation is sad to report that Leanne passed away in 2019, but her spirit and work live on through the Leanne Storch Support Group Fund.

The PFF is dedicated to assisting the PF and ILD support group community. The Leanne Storch Support Group Fund enhances the PFF Support Group Leader Network by providing funds to assist leaders in meeting the objectives of their support group, including establishing new support groups and hosting meaningful educational events.

### **Leanne Storch Support Group Fund Grants**

Support group leaders may apply for the following types of grants:

- *New Support Group Grant* (\$500) - a grant to establish a new PF and/or ILD support group
- *Support Group Development Grant* (\$750) - a grant to help an existing PF and/or ILD support group expand and extend its impact

Groups are limited to one grant per funding year. Support group leaders can request funds to cover expenses such as site rental fees, printing costs, refreshments, honoraria for non-healthcare professionals, and other costs related to starting and/or running a support group. Groups must meet at least quarterly to qualify for an LSSGF grant.

### **2026 Application Cycle**

Applications for this year's cycle will be accepted beginning Monday, January 26, 2026, until Friday, February 27, 2026.

## Submission of Applications

- All applications for the LSSGF must be submitted online. Visit the [Lead a Support Group page](#) on the PFF website to access and submit an application. Emailed or mailed submissions will not be accepted.
- All applications for the LSSGF must provide a detailed plan for how the funds will be used.
- Applications for a New Support Group Grant will be accepted no earlier than 60 days before the group's first meeting.
- Applications for a Support Group Development Grant, where funds are to be partially used to support a planned event, must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the event.

## Review and Notification Process

- All applications will be reviewed and scored by the LSSGF Review Working Group, which is made up of PFF Support Group Leader Network members and PFF staff.
- A member of the Working Group will reach out to each applicant to conduct a phone or virtual interview to discuss the application.
- Funding decisions will be made based on the overall quality of the application and interview.
- Applicants will be notified about the status of their application by a member of the PFF staff. If funded, applicants will then receive a Letter of Agreement. ***Please note that an individual must be named on the Letter of Agreement. The PFF cannot make grant payments directly to an institution or healthcare organization.***
- Funds will be provided to the support group after the PFF has received a signed copy of the Letter of Agreement and any other forms needed to complete the payment.

*This process is in place to ensure that all applications are evaluated equally and fulfill the PFF's mission, vision, values, and strategic plan.*

## Post-Award Guidelines

- Funded support groups are asked to conduct meetings at least quarterly to ensure the needs of the local PF and ILD community are being met.
- Funded support groups should keep the PFF informed on any changes to their group (e.g., meeting date/time, support group leader's contact information) through the [Support Group Meeting Information Survey here](#).
- Funded support groups are asked to offer a virtual or hybrid format meeting at least once quarterly to meet the needs of all group members. Many support group participants are at high risk for respiratory viruses and are encouraged to take extra precautions, such as avoiding crowded areas. Additionally, some support group participants are limited in their ability to travel to in-person meetings for other health reasons.
- The LSSGF grant can be used to cover expenses such as site rental fees, printing costs, refreshments, honoraria for non-healthcare professionals, and other costs related to starting and/or running a support group. 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. Please reference the [LSSGF FAQ](#) for a list of other acceptable uses of the grant funds.
- The grant funds may not be used for stipends/honoraria for healthcare professionals, to pay a healthcare organization, for coverage of costs related to an individual's medical care, or for donations to nonprofit organizations that exceed \$50. This is not an exhaustive list of expenses for which the funds may not be used. Contact Molly Abrams at [mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org](mailto:mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org) if you have any questions about the acceptable use of LSSGF award funds. Grant recipients may be asked to return any funds spent that were not considered an acceptable use of the LSSGF award.
- Funded groups are asked to acknowledge the PFF on all print and electronic materials pertaining to activities of the support group by using an approved PFF logo found in the PFF Style Guide and language describing the support group as being "supported by the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation." [The PFF Style Guide can be found here](#).
- The PFF makes educational materials accessible for support groups at no cost. Funded support groups are asked to make PFF educational materials available in their support group meetings. The materials may be obtained by contacting the PFF Help Center at 844.TALKPFF (844.825.5733) / [help@pulmonaryfibrosis.org](mailto:help@pulmonaryfibrosis.org) or by filling out the online

order form [here](#).

- **The deadline to use all grant funds is December 31, 2026.**
- The PFF requires that grant recipients submit an official expense report and receipts to document all grant expenditures made during the grant year. Submission of receipts and an expense report is separate from the report on fund use. Receipts can be emailed to Molly Abrams at [mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org](mailto:mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org) or mailed to the PFF at 223 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 350, Chicago, IL 60606. **Receipts must be received by December 31, 2026.**
- 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. **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.](#)
- Groups must use all funds granted to them. **Any unused grant funds, exceeding the amount of \$50, will need to be returned to the PFF 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.

For questions or more information, please contact Molly Abrams, Coordinator, Volunteer Programs, at [mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org](mailto:mabrams@pulmonaryfibrosis.org) or 312.854.1940.