Our mission: We, Allegany Franciscan Ministries and Trinity Health, serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities. Allegany Franciscan Ministries is a nonprofit Catholic organization, guided by this mission and rooted in the tradition and vision of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.

Allegany Franciscan Ministries’ FY20 Tau Grants (Cycle 1) will support outreach for the 2020 Census for organizations, programs, or initiatives working in targeted communities that have historically low rates of participation in the Census.

Requests up to $10,000 will be considered.

The next census is scheduled to occur in April 2020. The United States Constitution requires that the residential population of the country be counted every 10 years. A complete and accurate count is vital for communities. Census data is used to distribute funding for road repairs, school improvements, and social programs. Nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government agencies use census data to identify community needs and evaluate solutions to difficult problems. Census data is used for the allocation of 75% of all federal grant funding and 31% of domestic assistance program funding. Practically speaking, this means that the census controls how nearly three-quarters of a trillion dollars are distributed to states and localities.

For the 2020 census, data will be collected primarily online. Each household in the U.S. will either receive mailed instructions on how to fill out the census questionnaire online, or they will receive the actual questionnaire. The Census Bureau asks that as many households as possible submit their responses to this questionnaire via the Internet or by mail. The new format presents challenges for people without reliable internet access to participate.

Historically, some populations – including communities of color, low-income households, immigrants, and young children – have been undercounted in the census. Households may not have submitted their census questionnaire for various reasons, such as having language difficulties, or concerns about trust in government. For more information about the “Hard to Count” population and why it matters, click here.

Allegany Franciscan Ministries offers Tau Grants for smaller nonprofits with organizational or program needs that are limited in scope. Traditionally, Tau Grants are intended to support organizations or services that assist persons who are marginalized, economically poor, or have limited access to healthcare and health information.

For the purposes of this Tau Grant application process, grants will be awarded to nonprofit organizations in the Tampa Bay and Palm Beach regions with thoughtful, culturally sensitive, innovative strategies for reaching communities that have historically low rates of participation in the Census. Successful applications could focus on (but are not limited to):

- Convene Community Complete Count groups or subcommittees
- Conduct targeted communications effort
- Organize events to promote participation
- Provide for organizational capacity to support Census 2020 work
- Support collaborations between local community groups to engage in outreach
- Establish community sites to provide information and assistance
Eligibility
To be considered for funding, the organization must meet the following basic requirements:

- Have received a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service confirming its exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Serve residents of one or more of the following counties: Hillsborough, Pinellas, Martin, St. Lucie, and Palm Beach. **Note:** For this cycle, Tau Grants will be awarded to organizations serving these counties only. For funding opportunities regarding the 2020 Census in Miami-Dade County, please contact The Miami Foundation.
- Be “in good standing” with Allegany Franciscan Ministries (for organizations that have received one or more grants from Allegany Franciscan Ministries).
- Be willing and able to comply with all requirements of the Allegany Franciscan Ministries Grant Agreement. (See a sample agreement.)

Limitations Please see our FAQs for more information.

- Organizations with an operating budget of $2 million and over are not eligible (this includes hospitals and universities).
- Not available for individuals, public agencies, capital projects (buildings, van/automobiles, etc.), fundraising events, or endowments.

Application Process
- The online application process may be accessed via our website (www.afmfl.org).
- It is recommended you speak with Brittney Frazier, Allegany’s lead for Tau Grants before submitting a request (see contact information below).
- Receipt of the application will be confirmed by e-mail.
- Tau Grants are paid with one check, up front. A single report will be required at the end of the project.

The dates for the first cycle are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application Available</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Informational Webinar</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deadline</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decisions Announced</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payments Disbursed</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Questions about Tau Grants? First view Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and then contact Brittney Frazier, bfrrazier@afmfl.org, 727-489-0499 with additional questions.

Allegany Franciscan Ministries, [www.afmfl.org](http://www.afmfl.org)
Allegany Franciscan Ministries is a non-profit Catholic organization that seeks to improve the overall health of individuals and communities. Guided by the tradition and vision of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, and a member of Trinity Health, Allegany provides grants to organizations in three regions of Florida: Miami-Dade County, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, and the Tampa Bay area of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Allegany Franciscan Ministries has invested $98 million to over 1600 organizations serving those most in need in these communities. In addition to awarding grants, Allegany Franciscan Ministries’ staff and volunteers work collaboratively with community partners and other funders to create healthier, safer, and more connected places where everyone thrives.