

Twinning Projects What is a twinning project?

A twinning project is a request from a receiving national/superior council on behalf of its conferences/councils, or from a Canadian donating conference/council on behalf of their twin, for financial support for a plan that would enrich the lives of the poor they serve or benefit a larger number of poor.

These plans could take the form of financial support for **material** (housing, water well, micro-business, etc.), **educational** (school, daycare, cafeteria, etc.), social (shelter for the aged or women, orphanage, etc.), or **medical** (dispensary, mobile health unit, etc.) projects, submitted by the receiving conference. Projects are meant to help and empower a group of persons in need, with the aim of resolving a structural or systemic issue in their community.

Guidelines to submit a twinning project application

The normal amount of financial assistance admissible for a twinned project from a conference/council is limited to \$4000.00. A long-term project (between \$4000.00 and \$10,000.00) is admissible but should be strongly discouraged as more experience and managerial skill is required. If a long-term project is proposed, future operations must be planned, with the intent to make it self-sufficient within a limited time. A long-term project will be executed under the close supervision of the recipient's national/superior or central council.

A minimum local contribution is compulsory and is based on the cost of the project. For financial assistance up to \$4000.00 the local contribution should be at least 10 percent. For financial assistance up to \$10,000.00 the local contribution should be at least 20 percent, and over \$10,000.00, at least 50%.

The project application should contain all pertinent details to enable decision making relative to the project. This will include: the necessity and purpose of the project, exact location, description of the operation or project, details of costs, timelines for completion of the project, list of beneficiaries, etc. Because all details cannot be incorporated into the application form, separate notes may be attached.

If a project involves the utilization of any land or building not owned by the Society, the application should include a legally valid title document, supporting the exclusive right of the Society over such land or building.

For a project involving construction of a building(s), a plan and cost estimate of the proposed construction by a qualified person i.e. architect or engineer, should be attached to the application.

Commercial or business-type projects aimed at profit-making are outside the realm of the Society.

A receiving conference/council that is engaged in a twinning project will be eligible for further project funding after a period of 3 years following the completion of the project.

Twinning project application forms are available from the NCC administrative assistant, or from your regional twinning coordinator. The completed application can be sent to twinning-chair@ssvp.ca or Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, National Council of Canada, Twinning, 2463 Innes Road, Ottawa, ON, K1B 3K3.

Approving a twinning project

1. All projects should be approved in writing by the recipient's national/superior council before being sent to be considered by Canadian conferences/councils.
2. All twinning projects require approval by the NCC President, upon the recommendation of the regional council president and the chairperson of the NCC Twinning Committee.
3. Applications for additional funds after the project approval has been given will not be entertained. Contingency provisions must be made in the original budget proposal. (5.)

For more information, please refer to the [**Twinning Manual**](#) section 3.3.4.