

Mississippi Baptists long to see the day when every church member responds seriously to the call to missions. Acts 1:8 reminds us that everyone who receives the Holy Spirit becomes a witness for Christ. The missionary role is not reserved for an elite class of believers. The Margaret Lackey State Missions offering offers financial assistance to anyone who is willing to explore a missional calling through face-to-face encounters as a volunteer missionary. We pray that our investment allows you to try on a missionary role that could ultimately change your life. Our careful stewardship of these dollars reflects a deep concern we share for seeing the Kingdom of God reached from our local Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

2026 Guidelines for Financial Assistance for Short-term Mississippi Volunteers on Mission in North America and the Nations

Applicants must be members of Mississippi Baptist churches that have contributed to the Margaret Lackey State Missions offering and the Cooperative Program in 2025.

Guidelines for Assistance:

- **Effective January 2015, all international volunteers receiving assistance from the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering will be required to receive Sentinel Training through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.**
- Assistance will be granted only through a local church, association, BSU or strategically approved partner.
- Assistance must be requested by the mission team leader on the standard application form. The team leader must verify that all information is correct and sign the form. The form must also be signed by the Senior Pastor/Mission Pastor, Associational Missions Director or BSU Director or the strategically approved partner.
- **Every participant must submit a signed Assumption of Risk form to the team leader prior to receiving assistance.** The team leader is responsible for sending the forms to Missions Mobilization.
- Assistance is granted on a first-come basis. Blocks of money may not be reserved for unconfirmed participants.
- **Assistance is based upon exact cost of food, lodging and transportation ONLY.**
- Assistance will only be granted after participant names are committed and confirmed and team insurance has been verified.
- **Assistance will be granted no more than 60 days in advance of the mission.** Individuals and/or sponsoring churches should provide initial deposits for the mission.
- **Assistance request must be received COMPLETED (all release forms and insurance verification included) at least FOUR WEEKS prior to mission departure date. No late additions will be approved.**
- Please allow four weeks for processing of assistance check.
- Assistance for participants that cancel must be returned immediately to Missions Mobilization. Substitutions for cancellations are not allowed since money is granted on a first-come basis. Late additions must complete another application.

Assistance Limits:

- It is impossible to assist every Mississippi Baptist in doing volunteer missions. Therefore, it is imperative that those who are able to pay their entire expenses do so in order that we may assist those who cannot afford to otherwise go.
- Volunteers will be assisted **once per year**. Exceptions will be made to those participating in approved networks or initiatives.
- Assistance for teams will be limited to 12 participants (both North American and international missions). Larger teams will qualify for team assistance only.
- **Due to the large number of requests received, assistance for multiple teams from one church will be considered on a case-by-case basis, regardless of the date the request was submitted.**

- No requests will be approved for the new calendar year prior to December 1 of the present year.
- Assistance for teams traveling in late December and early January may be not available.

Assistance Exclusions:

- Financial assistance is not available if individual participation is **\$500 or less** in cost.
- Financial assistance is not available for missions to the **southeast United States**, including Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas and Louisiana.
- Financial assistance is not available to those whose churches **DO NOT** contribute both to the Margaret Lackey State Missions offering and the Cooperative Program.
- Financial assistance is not available to non-Mississippi Baptists, to those of other denominations or to national translators.
- Financial assistance is not available to those who fly free or at discounted prices due to special programs or memberships, including team leaders. This includes those who use air travel miles.
- Financial assistance funds are not to be used to supplement overhead expenses and/or fees being paid to any organization.
- Financial assistance is not available to cover team overhead expenses, including ministry expenses.
- Financial assistance is not available on mission journeys of less than **six days**.
- Financial assistance is not available for those who are **NOT** 12 years of age **and** completed 6th grade.
- **Financial assistance is not retroactive for missions in progress or already completed.**

INCOMPLETE PAPERWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.