



Frequently Asked Questions

We at Komen St. Louis have developed these Frequently Asked Questions and responses to address concerns raised by those in our community in February and March 2012. If you still have questions not addressed here, please email staff@komenstlouis.org and we will respond as quickly as possible. Thank you for your patience and your understanding.

Why did the grant eligibility policy confusion happen at Susan G. Komen for the Cure national office?

We don't know why certain decisions were made by the national organization or the rationale behind them. Those decisions did not involve input from Komen St. Louis or other affiliates.

There have been mistakes – confusing decisions and unclear messages – from our national organization. The recent events have caused distraction from our mission and had an impact on so many people. We know people are angry and upset. So are we. We hear you and understand.

Locally incorporated, Komen St. Louis does not comment on political issues. We are solely focused on serving the breast health needs of all women, men and families in our community.

How will you regain the trust of people who were upset with what happened?

Despite the recent controversy, our focus at Komen St. Louis has not changed. Komen St. Louis has been and continues to be dedicated to serving the breast health needs of all women, men and families in our community regardless of age, race, gender or socioeconomic status.

Our top priority is to continue to fund local programs with the best outcomes and greatest community impact. We will continue to do this, as we have since 1999, by working in collaboration with excellent direct service providers and demonstrating role model performance that has earned the trust and loyalty of our local community.

We know that as an organization we have to work hard to regain people's trust. Komen St. Louis is determined to do that. The stakes are far too high: One in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. One woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every three minutes, and one woman will die of breast cancer every 13 minutes in the United States. When breast cancer is detected early the five-year survival rate is 98%, but if diagnosed at a later stage, it drops to 23%. There are more than 2.5 million breast cancer survivors alive in the US today.

Komen St. Louis has always been empowered to make our own decisions on organizations we support. We constantly assess local community needs and how to best address the gaps in our 17-county Missouri and Illinois service area. We will continue to do that and help those most at risk gain access to the breast health care they need.

Komen St. Louis remains committed to our mission – and we are more passionate than ever about our promise to save lives and end breast cancer forever. Our focus, as it must be, remains on breast health and our vision to create a world without breast cancer. All our efforts are firmly focused on that goal.

What does Komen St. Louis do to support women’s health?

Komen St. Louis’ mission is to save lives and end breast cancer by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures. Since 1999, Komen St. Louis has always focused on meeting the needs of those most at risk in our service area.

Over the past 13 years, Komen St. Louis has awarded over \$16 million in grants to local organizations that deliver life-saving breast health services to those who might not otherwise have access due to low income, lack of insurance or other barriers.

Through events like the Komen St. Louis Race for the Cure, we have been able to contribute more than \$7 million to Susan G. Komen for the Cure for national breast cancer research since 1999. At the same time, more than \$15.25 million has come back to St. Louis area research facilities to fund vital breast cancer research.

Community grant funds are raised right here in the St. Louis area, largely through the efforts of our Komen St. Louis Race for the Cure event and other year-round fundraising events and activities. Without the dollars raised through these events and activities, there would be no funds to distribute.

Does Komen St. Louis fund Planned Parenthood?

Komen St. Louis has not issued grant funding to Planned Parenthood. The organization has not submitted a funding request to Komen St. Louis since 2003. Our national organization has not issued grant funding to Planned Parenthood. Nineteen other Komen affiliates have issued grant funding to their local Planned Parenthood branches to fund life-saving breast health services.

Will you fund Planned Parenthood in the future?

All organizations are invited to submit grant proposals for community grant funding, just as they were before. All grant proposals that meet the requirements in the Komen St. Louis request for application (RFA) process receive the same full and equitable consideration.

Proposals submitted to Komen St. Louis by any organization go through a rigorous grants review process and are evaluated against our community needs assessment, which is a comprehensive study to determine where the gaps in service are and who is in greatest need of breast health services.

How does Komen St. Louis’ grant process work?

Funding from the Komen St. Louis Affiliate is awarded through a competitive process. Komen St. Louis grants financial support to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies in our service area for innovative, non-duplicative, evidence-based projects in the areas of breast

health and breast cancer screening, treatment, education and support programs targeting services not otherwise available to the medically underserved populations in our 17-county service area.

Komen St. Louis accepts grant applications for consideration and review from any 501(c)(3) organization for funding for breast health and breast cancer screening, treatment, education and support programs. All grant applications are subjected to rigorous review by an independent, diverse panel of local professionals from varied backgrounds, including medicine, business, public health, and breast cancer survivors. The panel evaluates grant applications based on priorities determined by our local community needs assessment, as well as impact, feasibility, capacity, collaboration and sustainability. This panel is responsible for making the final decisions regarding grant awards.

Grant awards are for one year (April 1 – March 31). No grant funding is guaranteed. Each applicant must re-apply each year.

Our grant application cycle deadline for one-year funding (April 1, 2012-March 31, 2013) opened in October 2011 and closed in December 2011. The grants for 2012-13 will be announced in April 2012.

What does “gap funding” mean?

We constantly assess local community needs and how to best address the gaps in breast health and breast cancer services in our 17-county service area. We will continue to do that and help those most at risk have access to the breast cancer screening and breast health care they need.

Our community health grants ensure quality care for all by funding breast cancer screening, treatment, education and support programs for those who need them most. Through our community needs assessment, we identify unmet needs in our 17-county service area and provide community health grants to fill these gaps.

What happens to the money raised by Komen St. Louis?

Seventy-five percent of the net funds raised in the Komen St. Louis service area is granted to organizations delivering often life-saving services to those most at risk, to those who might not otherwise have access. Komen St. Louis has full autonomy in how those funds are granted out to local organizations.

Komen St. Louis provides strict oversight to all funds granted out and closely monitors all grantees to ensure all awarded funds are accounted for, used as intended, and NOT used outside the scope of our promise to save lives and end breast cancer.

The remaining 25 percent of net income goes toward groundbreaking breast cancer research programs, which are administered through our national office. Many national research grants have gone toward research being done right here in the St. Louis area. Komen is second only to the government in funding breast cancer research, and Komen has contributed to nearly every major advance in breast cancer research.

How does Komen St. Louis serve low-income, uninsured and underserved women?

Since 1999, our Affiliate has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of the uninsured and underserved in our service area. Since its inception, Komen St. Louis has awarded more than \$16 million in grants to organizations that deliver breast health and breast cancer care and access to life-saving services that might not otherwise be available.

In 2011-12, Komen St. Louis provided \$3.1 million in funding to 28 local programs throughout our 17-county Missouri and Illinois service area.

Komen St. Louis is fortunate to have 28 community partners that help the underserved and uninsured through breast health and breast cancer screening, treatment, education and support programs. We will continue to work with our community partners to ensure that every woman in our community who needs breast health help can get the help she needs.

Through Komen St. Louis funding, our community partners offer a variety of services to underserved and uninsured women, including free mammograms; navigating breast cancer patients through the healthcare system; and providing emergency financial assistance, meals and medical supplies to women diagnosed with breast cancer.

There is no reason for any woman in our 17-county service area to go without a needed mammogram.

On Nov. 3, 2011, Susan G. Komen for the Cure announced a three-year grant to Washington University in St. Louis, which is working with four community partners to identify and address barriers to breast health care for African-American women in the St. Louis area. In St. Louis County, breast cancer mortality rates for African-American women are more than one-and-a-half times higher than in white women, at 39.7 per 100,000 and 23.2 per 100,000, respectively. This research promises to have an impact not only on women in St. Louis but for women across the country.

Does Komen fund embryonic stem-cell research?

Susan G. Komen for the Cure has never funded human embryonic stem cell research. Komen supports research involving stem cells that are obtained without creating or destroying a human embryo. Stem cells can be obtained from many places, including blood, human tissue, and umbilical cords left behind after birth. The use of stem cells in research can advance our understanding of or treatments for breast cancer, but research like this can be performed without destroying a human embryo.

Why should I support Komen St. Louis?

There is no other organization in our area that does what we do for breast health and breast cancer – from screening and diagnosis to treatment to survivorship care – on a grassroots local level. We are able to do this because of the support in our community.

Komen St. Louis is committed to ensuring that ALL women, regardless of race, social status, political or religious beliefs, have equal access to breast health services. Komen St. Louis' granting decisions continue to be based on the needs of the communities we serve.

Our local grant-funding process is rigorous and not subject to political pressures of any kind.

Our Komen St. Louis Race for the Cure operates on an 8 percent expense ratio, while the Komen St. Louis Affiliate runs on less than a 15 percent expense ratio, including salaries.

Komen St. Louis and its supporters have raised more than \$23 million through our annual Race for the Cure and other fundraising opportunities since 1999.

More than \$16 million has stayed in our Missouri/Illinois service area for breast health services for our neighbors, coworkers, family and friends.

Komen St. Louis has contributed \$7 million to breast cancer research at the national level since 1999. At the same time, more than \$15.25 million raised here and nationally has come back to St. Louis area research facilities to fund vital breast cancer research.

Komen St. Louis believes politics has no place in the fight to end breast cancer. We must do everything we can to refocus our energies on the only thing that matters: breast cancer still devastates families and takes too many lives.

With the support of our community, Komen St. Louis will continue to fund worthy programs here at home to ensure that women and families who are most at risk have access to the high quality breast health screening and care they need. We will continue to help breast cancer patients navigate the complex health care system. We will continue to fund research that will save lives and help eradicate breast cancer.

Komen St. Louis Community Profile 2011

http://www.komenstlouis.org/site/PageServer?pagename=grants_community

Current Komen St. Louis grant recipients

http://www.komenstlouis.org/site/PageServer?pagename=grants_recipients

Komen St. Louis grant recipients since 1999

http://www.komenstlouis.org/site/DocServer/AlphabeticalListingof_Grants_1_.pdf?docID=4061