



Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey GRANT GUIDELINES

Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey (ECS-NJ) is a new initiative that supports congregations as they proactively address human needs and relentlessly work against both social and racial injustice. ECS-NJ invites us to walk with Christ together and make a positive impact on our communities, serving as a constant reminder of our interdependence and of our shared commitments to Discipleship and the Baptismal Covenant.

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I. PURPOSE OF THE GRANT

Our ECS-NJ grants are designed to support the work of the ministries of our congregations in the Diocese of New Jersey. Our grants will fund a new initiative or the expansion of existing outreach. If the grant is for an existing ministry, it is expected that grant funds will be used to expand the ministry in a significant way. The project should address *at least one* of the following objectives:

- To meet human need in underserved and marginalized communities, especially communities of color
- To engage, collaborate and partner with other organizations, including faith-based, secular, community, governmental, etc.
- To encourage advocacy for issues relating to social justice, including spearheading new advocacy efforts, particularly those affecting underserved or marginalized communities

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- The mission and ministry must be involved among and with underserved and/or marginalized people in our Diocese wherever they are located.
- Funding is available only to congregations within the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey not to individuals or organizations.
- Programs must represent an effort by a local congregation, or group of congregations, or a congregation in collaboration with community partners to respond to an identified need affecting members of an underserved and/or marginalized community.
- Eligibility for services offered by the program cannot be determined by church membership, faith, or participation in church activities.

III. APPLICATION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Applications for this cycle will be due on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 by 11:59 pm. All applications must be submitted online using Formstack.
- Grant applications will be reviewed by a grant committee and reviewers will look to balance the following considerations:
 - Growth of outreach capacity either through creation of new ministry or expansion of current ministry
 - Advocacy actions (*the definition of advocacy for the ECS-NJ grants can be found at the end of this document*)
 - Community impact, including partnership and collaborations
 - Quality and feasibility of the plan
 - Discipleship and building up the body of Christ
 - Engagement of members of the community with the design and implementation of the project

In the context of all applications received, we will be looking to achieve some level of geographic diversity.
- Applicants will be notified of the Advisory Council's decision the week of April 11, 2022. Applicants may be contacted by the grant readers if any clarification or additional documents are needed.
- To be considered, the applicant must submit the completed Application, which includes a Project Budget, an Activity Timeline and a Signature.

IV. EXPECTATIONS OF GRANTEE

All grantees must be willing to:

- Sign a Memorandum of Understanding.
- We request the presence of a project representative of each selected grant on Saturday, April 23 at 10 am at the ECS-NJ Virtual Summit during which we will announce grant recipients.
- Submit a mid-project and final report. We encourage video and photo submissions.
- Compile success stories and share these stories (with photos/videos) quarterly with the Advisory Council.
- Participate in check-in calls and in-person visits.

** Ensure that permission is obtained for all photos, videos, personal stories and quotes shared as they will potentially be used in promotion/marketing materials.*

V. GRANT AMOUNT AND PERIOD

Grant Amount: \$7,000-\$15,000

Grants are to be disbursed in two payments, 50% at receipt of the signed MOU and 50% at receipt of the mid-project report.

Grant Period: 12 months

Grants are awarded for a period of one year. The project period typically begins at least two months after you submit your proposal. If you would like to discuss the possibility of a shorter or longer grant duration, please contact us by email at info@ecs-nj.org.

VI. GRANT APPLICATION

Current Grant Application is available [here](#).

Applications are due by Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 11:59 pm EST.
Applications not submitted by this time will not be considered for funding for the fall cycle.

Grant applications for the fall cycle will be due in September 2022. The application will be made available in July or August 2022.

Definition and Examples of “Advocacy” for Purposes of ECS-NJ Grant

ECS-NJ bases our definition of “Advocacy” on the Anglican Communion/ Episcopal Church’s Mark of Mission #4: *“To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.”*

Advocacy is any action that supports someone to make their voice heard and works to change systems and promote social causes using legislative advocacy to change laws. Advocacy includes direct contact with those being served and problem solving designed to protect the personal and legal rights of individuals. For example:

Listen to those who are served through your grant program to discern underlying causes of the need, paying particular attention to systemic racism and unjust systems.

Research and Document the issues you have identified to reflect the real story of the community you are serving.

Educate and Train Volunteers to do this work by teaching successful strategies and skills leading to direct action and organizing on issues related to those who are served in your grant program.

Educate the Community about the identified issues and the legislative process to address them.

Lobby decision-makers for legislative and systemic change. Speak in favor of, recommend, argue for a cause, support or defend, or plead on behalf of others.