



United Thank Offering Grant Focus and Criteria

*UTO was founded to support innovative mission and ministry
that the Church budget has not yet expanded to fund.*



The 2020 United Thank Offering Grant session will focus on the following:

Bless: Share faith, practice generosity and compassion, and proclaim the Good News of God in Christ with hope and humility.

The 2021 United Thank Offering Grant session will focus on the following:

Act: Turn love into action by caring for God's creation to protect the most vulnerable who will bear the largest burden of pollution and climate change.

The United Thank Offering will accept:

- are for start-up costs for NEW ministries or new projects/programs within an existing ministry program added to the existing program beyond simply increasing the number of participants in the current program;
 - grant applications for seed money for start-up positions, either full- or part-time for a new ministry (*see above*);
 - **one** grant application per diocese within The Episcopal Church and one per province of the Anglican Communion;
 - **one** additional application from a diocese of The Episcopal Church for a companion/partnership grant
 - this relationship may be with a diocese from The Episcopal Church and a diocese of the Anglican Communion, or
 - this relationship may be with a diocese of The Episcopal Church and one of the aided dioceses of The Episcopal Church (*for a full list of aided dioceses, please see the Application Process Form*);
 - only one additional application per aided diocese or diocese of the Anglican Communion will be accepted;
 - the application must indicate how both partners are involved in the project/program;
 - the sponsoring diocese will be responsible for the final accounting of the grant.
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A United Thank Offering grant application must:

- spend grant money within one year of receipt of the grant;
- return the final report of the funds within one year of receipt of the grant;
- show a connection with The Episcopal Church or Anglican Communion;
- show that any property, land, or structure is owned by an Episcopal congregation or diocese or province of the Anglican Communion by including a proposed bill of sale for land or property purchases;

- show how computer equipment, if requested in the budget, will be protected, maintained and supported going forward (please note: UTO cannot fund service contracts for computers);
 - spell out construction costs in detail (see the sample construction budget for help);
 - show financial or in-kind support.
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The United Thank Offering will NOT fund:

- project site/programs for two consecutive years (for example, you cannot apply for two different projects in the same building two years in a row);
- capital campaigns or debt reductions;
- deferred maintenance (repairs or upgrades to the physical plant or facility must be tied to the specific ministry or project of the current application);
- operational budgets (meaning the proposed budget and program is the same as the year before);
- debts obligated or incurred before the date of the grant award;
- consultancy fees (including trainers), stipends or honoraria;
- employment benefits or fees, taxes, or social security costs;
- purchase of consumable items (e.g., food, medicine, paper goods, toiletries, fuel of any kind, school supplies, anything that is given to those attending a program, travel, mileage, overnight accommodations, etc.);
 - For garden projects, UTO will fund: Soil, manure, trees, bushes
 - UTO will NOT fund: fertilizer, plants, flowers, seeds
- maintenance or printing of marketing materials, or a website; however, the initial development/creation/translation of materials, videos, or a website **can** be funded;
- fees of architects or engineers, permits or insurance of any kind, shipping costs, background checks, or fingerprinting;
- contingency funds or overhead costs including utilities;
- rent or leasing of any kind;
- modifications or construction of property NOT owned by an Episcopal or an Anglican Communion entity;
- scholarships, tuition, camp fees, or attendance incentives;
- previously funded requests;
- programs regarded to be diocesan operating budgets;
- incomplete grant applications;
- grant applications from an Episcopal or Anglican diocese that has a current delinquent/outstanding grant;
- grant applications that have 51% or more of the total requested from UTO out of criteria (*these items may appear on the budget, but it must be indicated who is funding them; see sample budget for more information*);
- emergency response requests.

In Episcopal dioceses within the United States, the United Thank Offering WILL NOT fund:

- a vehicle with a 12 or 15 passenger chassis (due to stability and insurance matters);
- any vehicles that are not the property of a church or diocese of The Episcopal Church.

Additionally, the United Thank Offering:

- will only fund **one-half** of the amount of the cost of a vehicle requested in the United States except in aided dioceses and the budget must show where the other half of the funding is coming from;
- requires a proposed bill of sale, which must accompany **all** applications requesting a vehicle, land or building (both in the United States and in other countries);
- will fund a vehicle for one year only - there will be **NO** extensions allowed after the one year (both in the United States and in other countries).

Please note: **In accordance with Canon I.4.6 (f-g), full payment of the diocesan assessment shall be required of all Dioceses, effective January 1, 2019 to be eligible to receive grant or scholarship funds.** As such, beginning in March 2019, the United Thank Offering Board will not review any application from dioceses which have not paid their full assessment in the prior year or if they have not received a waiver approved by Executive Council. UTO receives funding from the budget each year to support our staffing costs, and so we give thanks for all of the sacrifices you make to help support the Episcopal Church Budget.

Please join the United Thank Offering Board for one of the webinars concerning the grants listed on the helpful hints page or at www.UnitedThankOffering.org and posted on our Facebook page, or contact our office with questions!