



# United Thank Offering Grant Focus and Criteria



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

**Recovering with Love and Gratitude:**

**An Episcopal Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Local Contexts.**

The United Thank Offering will accept applications in **two categories**: **sustaining ministries** and **innovative ministries** at **two different funding levels** through **two granting cycles**. The **criteria for each category are different, so please read the following carefully**. *Applicants must demonstrate concisely how the project directly supports the recovery effort.*

## **Sustaining Ministry Grants:**

are applications for **previous UTO grant sites that are addressing the increased needs in their communities caused by COVID-19**. This category honors the tradition of UTO to fund grant sites for numerous years in order to maintain programs after the World Wars and the Spanish Flu Epidemic. Applicants in this category must demonstrate that the funds requested to sustain current ministries, which were started with UTO funds, (e.g. elder care, post-prison reentry, preschools, food insecurity ministries, substance abuse) will be used to directly offset the increased need caused by COVID-19 and the economic downturn.

## **Innovative Ministry Grants:**

are applications that are for **start-up costs for NEW ministries** or new projects/programs within an existing ministry program beyond simply increasing the number of participants in the current program that address community needs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

## **Funding Levels and Grant Cycles:**

Due to the extreme need in our local communities, for this granting cycle, the UTO Board will utilize funding levels in order to help as many applicants as possible. **There are two different levels for funding requests: Seed Funding (\$0 to \$10,000) and Impact Funding (\$10,001 to \$25,000).**

Additionally, the UTO Board recognizes that the needs of communities are dire now and will continue, therefore, **we will have two grant cycles for 2021 within the focus area**. The UTO Board will grant all Ingathering funds received by August 31, 2020 and awarded in October 2020 and the remaining Ingathering will be awarded in April 2021 through a second grant cycle.

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## **A United Thank Offering grant application must:**

- spend grant money and return the final report of the funds within one year of receipt of the grant or apply for an extension of up to an additional year, three months prior to the deadline;
- 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.

### **Additionally, the United Thank Offering:**

- **will accept two grant applications** (one for seed-level funding of \$0-\$10,000 and one for impact-level funding of \$10,001-25,000 regardless of category) per diocese within The Episcopal Church as well as from provinces of the Anglican Communion (but each diocese within an Anglican Communion province can only apply once) **per granting cycle**;  
**NOTE:** Only Episcopal institutions (parishes, dioceses, provinces, schools, seminaries, monastic communities, Episcopal organizations and other Episcopal affiliated entities) are eligible to receive these funds. Partnerships with non-Episcopal entities are welcome and encouraged, but an Episcopal entity must serve as the recipient of the funds, project leader, active manager, owner of any materials/equipment/land purchased, supervisor of staff paid with UTO funds and reporting agent.
- will fund applications for seed money for start-up positions, either full- or part-time for a new ministry (for those applying in the sustaining grant category, UTO will also fund money for the continuation of vital employees);
- will only fund **one-half** of the amount of the cost of a vehicle and will only fund a vehicle for one year - there will be **NO** extensions allowed after the one year (both in the United States and in other countries);
- 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) showing that the property, land, or vehicle remain the property of an Episcopal entity and not an individual;
- will only consider a grant if at least 51% of the line items requested of UTO in your narrative budget are eligible for funding. You may include in your budget items that UTO cannot fund if you indicate a different funding source (e.g. other grants, in-kind support, diocesan funding).

### **The United Thank Offering will NOT fund:**

- 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);
- debts obligated or incurred before the date of the grant award;
- employment benefits or fees, taxes, or social security costs;
- purchase of consumable items (e.g., fuel of any kind, anything that is given to those attending a program, travel, mileage, overnight accommodations, etc.);
  - **However, for 2021 only: the following consumable items will be allowed: food, medicine, paper goods, toiletries, school supplies, online subscriptions such as Zoom;**
- 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;
- scholarships, tuition, camp fees, or attendance incentives;
- incomplete grant applications;
- grant applications from an entity that has a current delinquent/outstanding UTO grant report;
- applications from dioceses that have not paid their full assessment or received a waiver from Executive Council, in accordance with Canon I.4.6 (f-g).

**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](http://www.UnitedThankOffering.org) and posted on our Facebook page, or contact our office ([hmelton@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:hmelton@episcopalchurch.org)) with questions!**