



2027 Grant Process FAQs for Dioceses

Dear Diocesan Staff,

Thank you for supporting applicants in your diocese with the UTO grant process. This year we've adapted the process to support dioceses in discerning which project to submit for review by UTO. For those of you outside of the United States, we recommend setting an internal deadline prior to the December deadline to do your own review and selection process. Below are some of the questions we've gotten from Diocesan Staff regarding their role in the UTO Grant Process. We hope this helps and if you do have any additional questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Heather Melton at hmelton@episcopalchurch.org for support.

Q: Why do dioceses have to pick just one grant application?

A: UTO's goal is to try to fund as many projects as possible in as many places as possible. While we understand that each diocese is acutely aware of the needs within their diocese, we have to be mindful of the needs of the whole church and try to get resources to as many places as possible. We feel that dioceses (or provinces) are the best at determining where the grants could do the most good and where the community is prepared to support a project from start to finish.

Q: Why do you have such a complicated process?

A: Our process is complicated in order to keep out professional grant writers. We've found that by supporting applicants through the current process levels the playing field for applying. Years ago, the majority of UTO grants awarded were written by paid professionals. In 2026, none were. Our hope is that by offering support to dioceses and applicants throughout the process we're setting everyone up for equal success. However, it does mean there are more steps along the way to balance the need to support applicants and the reality that our Board is made up of volunteers and we only have one staff person supporting our work.

Q: What do we need to do at the diocese?

A: This varies from place to place. Some dioceses like to be very involved with UTO grants, from encouraging applications from regions or areas within the diocese instead of one church, to creating projects for the whole diocese. We recommend thinking about your UTO grant application as a part of your larger strategic vision for the diocese. Some dioceses prefer that funds (if awarded) are sent to the diocese for the diocese to oversee and manage, while others prefer the applicant to handle the finances directly. The only thing that UTO needs from the Diocese is the signed Bishop's Endorsement Form, which indicates to us that this is the application the Diocese has selected to move forward and that the Diocese is up to date with their canonical assessment requirements. Dioceses agree to take on the obligation to address any financial issues that might arise if the grant is awarded.

If you have any questions at any time throughout the process, do not hesitate to reach out. Our goal is to have a supportive process for all involved. We also hope that you'll encourage giving to UTO at the parish and diocesan level. Each year, the requests far outnumber the amount of funds available. If each diocese helped increase giving, then we would be able to fund more projects. Please consider talking about UTO at your diocesan convention and encouraging congregations to try out some of our formation resources for fall, Lent, or even one of our free Vacation Bible Camp programs.

With Gratitude,
The UTO Board