United Thank Offering
2023 Grant Focus and Criteria

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

Over the next 3 years, The United Thank Offering, in the spirit of Matthew 25:36, will focus on areas of ministry that service those who society has left out and left behind. Therefore, the UTO grant focus for 2023 will be on innovative mission and ministry projects addressing all aspects of the worldwide incarceration crisis, specifically:

- preventative programs and intervention;
- prisoner support outreach;
- prison reform work;
- or post-prison re-entry.

Funding Range:

The UTO Board will accept applications from $1,000 to $55,000. Please note: we ask you to request only what you need for your project so that we can fund as many projects as possible. In circumstances of extreme need, applicants may request up to $100,000; however, you must clearly justify why the project requires that level of support from UTO and show an adequate level of in-kind support.

The United Thank Offering will accept:

- grant applications for NEW ministries' start-up costs or start-up costs for NEW projects/programs within an existing ministry program added for a purpose other than simply increasing the number of current program participants;
- 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;
- one additional application from any diocese of The Episcopal Church that receives funding from the General Convention Budget (for a full list please see the Application Process Form);
- two applications from each Province of the Anglican Communion with 5 or more dioceses which must be from two different dioceses within the province, and one application from those with fewer than 5 dioceses.
- 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

A United Thank Offering grant application must:

- spend grant money as indicated on the submitted budget and return the final report within one year of receipt of the grant funds or apply 3 months prior to the deadline for an extension of up to an additional year;
- share any final virtual resources with the whole church through UTO;
- 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 and/or in-kind support.

The United Thank Offering will NOT fund:

- capital campaigns or debt reductions;
- operational budgets (meaning the proposed budget and program is the same as the year before, which includes portions of salaries for individuals who are already paid fulltime salaries);
- 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, fees, taxes, social security costs, background checks, or fingerprinting;
- maintenance of a website or printing of marketing materials, however, the initial development/creation/translation of materials, videos, or a website **can** be funded;
- 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 or from the same diocese of the Anglican Communion two years in a row);
- honoraria or any payment of any kind to an individual without an invoice;
- purchase of consumable items (e.g., shipping fees or any kind, food, medicine, paper goods, toiletries, fuel of any kind, school supplies, anything that is given to those attending a program, travel, mileage, overnight accommodations, gift cards, etc.);
- fees of architects or engineers, permits or insurance of any kind, ;
- contingency funds or overhead costs including utilities;
- rent or leasing of any kind;
- scholarships, tuition, camp fees, or attendance incentives;
- previously funded requests;
- incomplete grant applications;
- grant applications from an Episcopal or Anglican diocese 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);
- grant applications where 51% of the budget lines attributed to UTO for funding are deemed out of criteria *(out of criteria items may appear on the budget, but must be funded through inkind support; see sample budget for more information).*
- emergency response requests.

Additionally:

- for all garden or agricultural applications:
  - UTO will fund: soil, manure, trees, bushes, irrigation systems
  - UTO will NOT fund: fertilizer, plants, flowers, seeds
- UTO will only fund **one-half** of the actual purchase of a vehicle requested in the United States (except in dioceses which receive funding from the General Convention budget) and the budget must show where the other half of the funding will come from.
- UTO requires a proposed bill of sale with a breakdown of costs-which must accompany **all** applications requesting computer equipment (and justification for the choice given the cost), a vehicle (meaning anything with wheels that can be driven), land or the purchase of an existing building (both in the United States and in other countries).
- UTO will fund a vehicle for one year only—there will be **NO** extensions allowed, regardless of location.

Please join the United Thank Offering Board for one of the webinars listed on the helpful hints page or email hmelton@episcopalchurch.org with questions!