United Thank Offering
2024 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, will focus on areas of ministry that welcome the stranger and serve those who society has left out and left behind.

The UTO grant focus for 2024 will be on "the stranger" Jesus mentions, offering welcome and inclusivity.

- Projects that welcome people with differences that cause isolation (culture, life experience, disability, mental health, etcetera) in new ways that are meaningful and deemed necessary by that community.
- Projects that encourage truth telling, acknowledging historic trauma, and establishing a pathway towards healing.

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 grants 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 any materials/equipment/land purchased, supervisor of staff paid with UTO funds, and reporting agent.

The United Thank Offering will not accept:

- photos, videos or website links submitted with an application;
- incomplete applications;
- grant applications from a project site/program 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);
- grant applications from any Diocese of The Episcopal Church or Province in the Anglican Communion that has a past due 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 in-kind support; see sample budget for more information)*;
- applications that include a vehicle (meaning anything that can be driven) but do not include a proposed bill of sale with a breakdown of costs.

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 (please review carefully as this list has changed):
- consumable items (anything that is not reusable or is given away) NOT related to direct aid or ministry within the focus. All consumable items must be used solely for the project;
- capital campaigns or debt reductions;
- operational budgets, including utilities, office supplies, and overhead costs (meaning the proposed budget and program is the same as the year before, which includes portions of salaries for individuals who are already paid full-time 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);
- costs associated with an existing website; however, the initial development/creation/translation of materials, videos, or a website **can** be funded;
- transportation expenses;
- contingency funds;
- rental fees for church property;
- previously funded requests;
- scholarships or tuition;
- emergency response requests;
- debts incurred before the date of the grant award.

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!