

The Episcopal Church Becoming Beloved Community Grants 2024

(Application Deadline: March 1, 2024)

Background

The Presiding Officers' Advisory Group on Beloved Community Implementation is pleased to make available funds to catalyze the church's work of racial healing, reconciliation and justice. The funds have been allocated by General Convention in order to build capacity and increase Episcopal engagement in four primary fields: telling the truth about our churches and race, proclaiming the dream of Beloved Community, practicing Jesus' way of healing and reconciliation, and repairing the breach in institutions and society.

Prior to applying, please reflect on The Episcopal Church's resource: [Becoming Beloved Community Where You Are](#), which describes specific ways to engage in this work. Projects that advance any of the four quadrants of the Becoming Beloved Community Labyrinth are welcomed.

Eligibility

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 project leader, active manager, and reporting agent.

Grant Types & Criteria

SEED grants of up to \$7,500 — Seed grants are smaller grants geared to groups launching new projects and/or evolving the scale of an existing project. They can fund new educational opportunities, training, workshops, or campaigns to increase engagement in racial justice, healing, and reconciliation. They can fund broad and exploratory work to learn more about the local context ahead of more extensive programming. Seed grants may be initiated by an organization or an institution and special attention and priority will be given to applications with the potential to bring new communities into the work of Becoming Beloved Community.

IMPACT grants of up to \$15,000 — Impact grants are larger grants aimed primarily at growing capacity, impact and reach of communities and institutions already doing work to advance racial justice, healing, and reconciliation. While they may have an exploratory component, the expectation is that there must be a clear theory of change, desired outcomes, and that they will produce processes and/or tools that can be shared. While individual churches and communities may apply, special priority will be given to applications that demonstrate collaboration of several organizations connected regionally and/or thematically. Priority will also be given to projects that center the experience and leadership of communities most impacted by structural racial inequities.

Projects with these purposes are preferred:

- Proposals that facilitate the connection of people across racial and/or ethnic lines.
- Proposals whose leadership reflects the diversity of the church with preference for marginalized communities.
- Projects that include a component of social justice and/or service with communities of color.
- Engage the local community as partners and participants, fostering cooperation between communities of faith, civic, scientific and educational organizations
- Have specific outcomes to create lasting impact
- Enhance understandings of racial justice, healing, and reconciliation as part of ongoing spiritual formation
- Serve groups and/or regions that are vulnerable and/or underrepresented in the church
- Encourage intergenerational and intercultural engagement
- Demonstrate innovation and creativity
- Promote churchwide learning, understanding and practical application

Your proposal will be strengthened by:

- Partnership and implementation across multiple Episcopal entities (several congregations in a diocese; several dioceses in a province, etc.) and or community groups of Color.
- For IMPACT grants, demonstration of significant investment in the project (could be donations of space, resources, staff time, or monetary commitment) by partners like a congregation, community partners, non-profits, or your diocese.
- A clear budget which shows additional sources of funding and use of grant funds
- A timeline for use of funds and outcomes anticipated
- A method for evaluating and reporting outcomes

We would love for you to consider the following questions:

- How will this help us partner meaningfully with those different from us?
- How are we creating or furthering a sustained movement around becoming beloved community?
- How are we creating positive, tangible outcomes for/with communities of Color?
- How are communities of Color at the heart of this work from the vision through implementation?

The Granting Process

Grants will be invited beginning January 5, 2024 and received through March 1, 2024. They will be approved, denied, or may be returned for revision during each granting cycle.

It is our hope that grant recipients will be able to attend online gatherings of Beloved Community Grant Recipients and others involved in the work of racial justice, healing, and reconciliation throughout the year and become part of a network of practitioners who share their learnings, encouragement, and resources.

Grant recipients will be highlighted at General Convention in 2024. Grantees are expected to provide a final narrative, visual and/or video reports to share their work more broadly with the wider church, accounting of funds for distribution and sharing with the wider church.

Information Session

A grant information session will take place on Tuesday, January 9th at 6pm Eastern time.

Total Funds Available

Around \$200,000 funds are available for distribution.