

# The Episcopal Church

## Beloved Community Rapid-Response Grants

### Summer 2020

## Background

The Presiding Officers' Advisory Group on Becoming Beloved Community Implementation is making funds available for groups working specifically to address the racial disparities laid bare by the coronavirus pandemic and for groups working to respond to racist violence and police reform. Across America, COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting People of Color in terms of health outcomes, access to testing and treatment, safe work environments, and more. At the same time, there is also the pandemic of ongoing violence directed against Black People and other People of Color, especially at the hands of law enforcement personnel in communities in the Americas and beyond. These grants are part of the funds 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. It is appropriate and urgent to expedite the granting of these funds in light of these two pandemics.

All proposed projects must demonstrate adherence to relevant local, diocesan and state public health guidelines for gathering and interaction.

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. Consider how your proposal might further those goals, and contribute overall to dismantling racism and reducing the disproportionate suffering of communities of color in this unique time. The Office of Government Relations regularly provides updates on justice and policy issues associated with the pandemic. You may consult their site at <https://episcopalchurch.org/ogr/covid19>.

## Eligibility

Episcopal entities (parishes, dioceses, provinces, schools, seminaries, monastic communities, or Episcopal organizations) 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 Type

**Beloved Community Rapid-Response Grants up to \$10,000** — All proposed projects must demonstrate adherence to relevant local, diocesan and state public health guidelines for gathering and interaction.

Funding is available for programmatic and direct service activities, including but not limited to: ongoing partnership within underserved communities to provide protective supplies, equitable access to testing and treatment, and job training and other support for workers displaced by the coronavirus pandemic (including undocumented immigrants), programs that address the health consequences of ongoing racism for Communities of Color (depression, anxiety, substance use,

trauma recovery, etc.), community listening and learning sessions, speakers' series, racial reconciliation workshops and facilitated trainings, and other activities that promote the work of Becoming Beloved Community. We are also excited and willing to support established projects and initiatives when provided with evidence of an intentional and meaningful effort to meet the changing conditions of these dual pandemics.

Priority will be given to proposals that feature the following:

- Directly address the racial and class disparities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic or address racist violence and police reform.
- Engage existing community partners and foster cooperation between communities of faith, civic, scientific and educational institutions
- Set out specific outcomes that lead to lasting impact
- Demonstrate capacity to achieve the stated goals of the grant
- Emphasize the experience and leadership of communities most impacted by structural racial inequities and racist violence
- Serve as a resource for other organizations/entities involved in similar efforts
- Enhance understandings of racial justice, healing and reconciliation as part of our spiritual formation
- Serve groups and/or regions that are vulnerable and on the front lines
- Encourage intergenerational and intercultural engagement
- Demonstrate innovation and creativity
- Promote churchwide learning, understanding and practical application

Your proposal will be strengthened by:

- Demonstration of strong partnerships and endorsements in writing, including clear support of this project as part of ongoing diocesan or congregational priorities.
- A clear budget that shows any additional sources of funding and use of grant funds
- A timeline for use of funds
- A clear set of anticipated outcomes
- A method for evaluating and reporting outcomes

## **The Granting Process**

Grants will be invited, received and considered beginning June 15 through August 15, 2020. Subject to the action of Executive Council, awards will be made and applicants notified through the summer and fall. Grantees who receive Beloved Community Rapid-Response Grants are eligible to apply later in the triennium for IMPACT grants (funding for projects that are more mature and ready for further expansion).

Grant recipients will participate in a series of monthly virtual gatherings leading up to a Beloved Community Summit in early 2021 and join a growing network of practitioners willing to share their learnings and resources that they develop. Grantees must also provide a final report that includes documentation of the project's development and final outcomes for distribution and sharing with the wider church.