

The Diocese of New Jersey MDG Matching Grants Program

The MDG Matching Grants Program

In 2014 more than \$11,000 was distributed to organizations through the MDG Matching Grant Program. The Diocesan Council allocated the remaining money to the Episcopal Relief & Development Fund. The Diocesan approved the continuation of the program in 2015 using the 2015 Diocesan budget line item for MDG aid.

The Grant Program encourages local parishes and other Episcopal organizations to support the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A grant of up to \$750 per project is available to match funds, dollar for dollar as raised by an applicant. The applicant decides which partner organization to support. This is an incentive for parishes and other Episcopal organizations to participate in the eradication of global poverty.

Background The [Millennium Development Goals](#), established by the United Nations in 2000, are to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Create a global partnership for development

The Diocesan MDG Task Force's role is to create a Diocesan-wide movement promoting awareness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to work with parishes developing plans for their achievement. The Task Force's focus on people facing extreme poverty throughout the world is based on our baptismal covenant "to strive for justice and peace among all people."

Since 2005, the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of New Jersey has allocated 0.7% of the annual Diocesan budget for use towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a mission priority of the Episcopal Church. The 0.7% figure comes from the reality that if each developed country donated 0.7% of its gross national product to the effort, the Goals could be reached. Historically, the Diocesan Council decided how to disperse the Diocesan MDG funds to partner organizations such as Episcopal Relief & Development, the Diocese of Jerusalem and to the African country of Malawi for the purchase of mosquito nets.

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How the program works The grant applicant (i.e. churches, other Episcopal organizations) chooses the project and the partner organization in accordance with the grant criteria. The project may be on-going, or a new endeavor of the applicant. The entire project must address at least one of the MDGs in an international location.

Grant applications are made to the MDG Task Force. A subcommittee of the MDG Task Force, called the MDG Grant Committee, is responsible for receiving, screening and reviewing grant applications to determine eligibility. Funding criteria can be found at the end of this document. A maximum of \$750 in 50/50 matching funds is available for eligible projects. The Grant Committee notifies applicants of awards approved and reports to the Diocesan Council on the status of awards in June and November.

The Grant Committee chair authorizes the Diocesan Chief Financial Officer to release the grant award to the receiving organizations in November. Funds are released only after the Grant Committee receives evidence that the applicant has completed the required match as well as fulfilled any preconditions stated in the grant approval. All grant awards are forwarded by the diocese to its partner organization in the year of approval.

The Grant Committee reserves the right to deny any and all grant requests that do not meet the criteria set forth herein. The Grant Committee advises the Diocesan Council how to disperse any funding left in the Diocesan's Budget line item for MDG aid at year-end 2015.

The guidelines and procedures for the grant program changes are authorized by the Diocesan Council and the MDG Task Force.

Application process

[Fill out the grant application online.](#) Then you have three options:

- print, sign, and mail to Diocesan House. (Mailing instructions are on the application.)
- print, sign, and fax to 609 452-2643.
- print, sign, scan, and email the application as a PDF attachment to mdggrants@gmail.com.

The deadline for submission of applications is October 31, 2015, unless the committee negotiates an alternative date. Grants are reviewed and approved upon receipt, requesting a final accounting by November 15, 2015, unless the committee negotiates an alternative date.

Awarded grants are announced by notice to the applicant and may be advertised on the diocesan website.

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Criteria for grant consideration The partner organization must

- Be affiliated with the Episcopal Church or have an Episcopal Church endorsement.
- Operate outside the United States and its territories.
- Empower its community members.
- Have an IRS registered non-profit 501c3 designation.

The applicant must explain how the project helps the applicant community becomes more aware of how others live and more engaged in reaching out to those in the greatest need.

Funds are forwarded to the partner organization by year's end.

The partner organization must have an established track record in doing the work that the matching grant will be funding.

The project and the partner organization must show evidence of local empowerment and participation in the decision making process.

The Grants Committee reserves the right to request a recent audit of the partner organization.

The Diocese of New Jersey requires that a current parochial report is on file in order to participate in the program.

One request per project per year may be made, although grants may be requested for multiple projects.

MDG Matching Grant beneficiaries include:

- Fundación Cristosal Community development, works with the Anglican Episcopal Church in El Salvador. www.cristosal.org
- Good Shepherd Home Orphanage and school for children (including special needs), Cameroon. www.goodshepherdhome.org
- Nets for Life Works in Africa to eliminate malaria by providing bedding nets for children. <http://www.netsforlifeafrica.org>
- El Hogar Ministries Orphanage and school, Honduras. www.elhogar.org
- American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East Hospitals, schools for boys and girls, and nursing homes in the Middle East. www.afedj.org
- Episcopal Relief and Development Works in partnership with the worldwide church. www.er-d.org.

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It is advisable to check on how well an organization uses its money. “Charity Navigator” is one such service to help you determine the effectiveness of your donation.

www.charitynavigator.org.

The Diocese of New Jersey does not endorse, or have responsibility for any organizations that may be considered for matching funds participation.

Questions?

If you have questions or comments, email mdggrants@gmail.com.