

# **Sustainable Development Grant Guidelines**

## **The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts**

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

In 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), following on the success of the U.N.'s 8 [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) adopted in 2000. The SDGs provide a worldwide framework for efforts to end poverty, protect and care for the planet and fight injustice and inequality through 2030. In response to the U.N.'s call for support from governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals, the Diocese of Massachusetts has set aside 0.7% of its unrestricted income each year for this purpose.

### ***The 17 Sustainable Development Goals***

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.
16. Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.
17. Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## **Eligibility**

The Sustainable Development Grant program funds projects undertaken by churches, schools and organizations affiliated with the Diocese of Massachusetts (DioMass) and their partner communities.

The DioMass applicant and its partner apply together for funding for the shared project. The global partner community must be the direct beneficiary of the grant funds. The application must be approved by the DioMass church's clergy-in-charge (or head of school or organization executive or chair) and vestry (or governing board) and endorsed by the equivalent leadership of the global partner.

DioMass churches must meet all diocesan compliance requirements listed in the application checklist in order to apply for and receive grant funds. Awards will be paid to the entity indicated in the Funds Custodianship section of the application.

The DioMass applicant and its partner are responsible for submitting a report not later than 12 months after the grant is issued. A reporting form is included at the end of the SDG application packet. By accepting grant funds, DioMass applicants also agree to speak to the diocesan Global Mission Commission about their project upon request. DioMass applicants that have previously received a diocesan SDG grant or Companion Relationship grant must submit all required reports to be eligible for further funding.

Sustainable Development Grants require matching funds from the DioMass applicant. The percentage match required is based on the annual budget of the DioMass partner: 50% for budgets of < \$500,000; 75% for budgets of \$500,000 - \$1,000,000; 100% for budgets > \$1,000,000.

***The maximum annual SDG grant per DioMass partner is \$25,000, with a maximum of three annual grants per project.***

## **Requirements and Recommendations**

SDG grants require that the DioMass applicant and the global partner have an established relationship. If the applicants are collaborating with a service provider to develop local capacity, the service provider should be identified as a third party. All partners must commit to collaborative decision-making and regular communication.

SDG grants are awarded for projects that directly address one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals or build local capacity to do so in the future. Examples of such capacity-building include community organizing, Asset Based Community

Development, small business development, education or local training, climate action or ecosystem and resource protection.

A statement of how a proposal aligns with our diocesan [Mission Strategy](#) is part of the application.

We particularly invite both congregations serving communities of color and congregations with small budgets and/or part-time clergy to consider applying for a grant. While all applications will be reviewed first on their merits, consideration will be given to historical obstacles to funding access when determining an equitable distribution of funds.

Applicants should reflect on the Sustainable Development Goal(s) they plan to address and reference specific SDG targets in the project description. Applicants should keep in mind their targets and goals during ongoing evaluation of the project.

SDG grant funding is not provided for travel expenses for the DioMass partner, though these expenses may be included in matching funds required of the DioMass partner. DioMass applicants planning to travel are nevertheless strongly encouraged to provide a robust description of their plans, including how travelers will prepare, what they will do on the trip, and how they will reflect and debrief upon returning home. This will give the committee a fuller understanding of the mission relationship.

Grant funding may be provided for travel expenses for global partners, e.g., for learning opportunities that will enhance their local sustainable development efforts. Applicants must clearly explain how the planned travel will lead to sustainable development of the global partner community.

Applicants must be specific about the endeavor for which they are requesting funds. Some grants may fund a discrete project, such as fees for global partners to attend a community organizing training. Others may be part of a larger initiative, such as a collaborative effort to renovate a school or provide scholarships. In all cases, applicants must clearly explain the planned use of the grant funds as well as the larger context for the project.

Applicants must describe their awareness of God and their own role in God's mission. The project should invite participation from congregation and community members in a variety of ways, including prayer. As endeavors undertaken in Christian community, all global mission projects offer the opportunity for spiritual growth and re-dedication to God's vision. We commend the study resources provided in [The Episcopal Church's Global Partnerships Digital Toolkit](#).

Applicants must demonstrate an understanding of the history, culture, and root causes of the challenges faced by the global partner community, especially the role of the United States (past and/or present) when applicable. For resources, visit the [Global Episcopal Mission Network](#) website.

Funded projects must contribute to the growth and financial sustainability of the global partner community. We hope that SDG-funded projects will foster true companionship in mission. Projects should be carried out in a spirit of friendship and loving accountability, and should result in true positive change for all participants and their communities.

## **Application Process**

While there is no deadline for application, we encourage applicants to submit applications as early in the calendar year as possible. Grants of up to \$25,000 each will be awarded each year, depending on the amount of funds available. Any funds designated for SDG grants that are unspent in a calendar year are held for grants in subsequent years. Applicants whose proposals are not funded will receive feedback and may reapply the following year.

The Global Mission Commission reviews applications and may contact applicants with follow-up questions during their deliberation process.

Applicants may be asked to make a presentation on their mission relationship in person or through Zoom video conference.