

## **Applying for EHF Congregational Engagement Financial Support to Enhance Community Engagement**

The Episcopal Health Foundation considers partnering with the congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas as an important pathway for achieving our vision to transform the people, institutions and places in our region to create healthy communities. Collaboration between the Foundation and parish work will help catalyze our efforts for widespread transformational change by bringing more resources to the problem solving table and strengthening the voice for health in our communities.

In order to strengthen the capacity of congregations and increase efforts to engage in community health transformation, EHF offers limited technical and financial assistance to congregations to help develop or expand their involvement in the community. The Foundation also offers other resources such as on-line materials, congregation profiles, training and consulting to support congregations. Many times financial resources are not a barrier to deepening relationships and impact in the community. But in cases where a modest investment can help a congregation launch or expand their efforts to strengthen the health of their community, we may be able to help.

### **Basic Eligibility Criteria**

The Episcopal Health Foundation (the Foundation) provides support to institutions and congregations who are part of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and whose work relates directly to the Foundation's vision, goals, and strategies. The head of congregation must indicate they are supportive of the proposal via written acknowledgement of the proposal (this can be via email).

### **Foundation Service Area**

The Foundation provides support within the 57-county service area of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

### **Strategic Alignment**

The Foundation is committed to achieving transformative change by supporting broader and more effective engagement by Diocesan institutions and congregations in their communities. Our goals are generally to help congregations develop a deeper understanding of community needs, involve more parishioners in the community, transition outreach ministries from a charity to transformation orientation, and increase the number of congregations who are deeply connected to communities.

### **Examples of Support**

Examples of the kinds of efforts we anticipate supporting:

- Financial assistance for a group from a congregation to attend a training (or to host a training at the congregation) to equip members to participate in a new program or ministry, to improve a ministry already underway, or gain

broader skills. This could include learning specific skills in a topic area like mental health or education through a partner organization or more general leadership skills such as cross cultural communication or asset based community development.

- Support for a consultant to work with a congregation to develop a strategic plan for community development.
- Startup costs to launch a new program, such as purchasing curriculum or materials.
- Visiting another congregation or program to learn about a model program you would like to bring back to your community.
- Costs associated with conducting an in-depth community needs assessment.
- The Foundation will NOT provide financial support for on-going expenses for congregation ministries or programs, or for individual requests for health care costs or education expenses.

We encourage you to speak with EHF's Congregational Engagement staff before submitting a request (contact info below).

### **Award Amounts**

We anticipate that most financial assistance awards will range from \$3,000-5,000, though some may be higher, depending on the scale of the initiative. Awards are not likely to exceed \$10,000 per congregation or institution in a calendar year.

### **Application Deadlines and Review Process**

There are no application deadlines, and applicants may submit their request anytime. Each application is reviewed and analyzed by a Congregation Engagement Officer, and recommendation decisions are made by Foundation leadership.

### **Timing a Request**

We estimate a three to six week period to receive, review, and make a decision regarding an application; but this period may vary, and further conversations for clarification may be needed for a final decision. Conversations between applicants and Congregation Engagement Officers prior to submission of a request are encouraged, and will result in a stronger proposal as well as a faster response time.

### **Notification of Award**

All applicants will be notified via email about decisions.

### **How to submit a Request**

The Foundation only accepts requests electronically by sending an email with the request for support, including the information outlined below in the components of the application, to [lmadry@episcopalhealth.org](mailto:lmadry@episcopalhealth.org).

### **Helpful Resources**

Applicants can find additional information on EHF's Congregational Engagement work, and read the Foundation strategic plan, FAQs and glossary of terms on our website in the [Congregational Engagement section](#).

## Components of the Application

The application consists of the following sections:

1. Congregation or institution contact information, including the primary contact for the organization as well as the contact for this request for support. If the person submitting the request is not the head of congregation, please copy them on the request and include an indication that they are supportive of the application.
2. Description of the general initiative for which financial support is requested. Address how it will help enhance your congregation's ability to better address community needs. Also include past or current partners and their role in the initiative. List key individuals who will be responsible for carrying out the initiative, and their anticipated time on the initiative for which support is requested (if applicable).
3. Whether technical support from EHF has been or will be sought as well, and if so, what that request involves.
4. Whether this is a new initiative or expansion/improvement of an existing initiative. Address why the topic is a focus of interest, and how it was developed. If the request relates to continuation, expansion or improvement of an existing initiative, please describe your group's work to date as well as your interest in improving or expanding your efforts.
5. Explain how this initiative is connected to EHF's vision for transforming community health (see <http://www.episcopalhealth.org/en/our-work/overview/>).
6. Provide the total cost of the initiative, along with a basic budget for the funds you are requesting from EHF; indicate any funding that the congregation has committed in the past or currently as well.
7. Indicate willingness to provide information for reporting (including reporting on how funds were spent), results and learnings from the experience, and other communication requests from EHF. We plan to share lessons learned about what worked and lessons learned about individual projects so that other congregations may benefit from the initiatives supported through this effort. We would also like to share appropriate photos or written materials developed as a result of the EHF support. Specific reporting deadlines and requirements will be negotiated on a project-by-project basis.

## Whom to Contact About the Scope of a Request

Applicants should contact a Foundation Congregation Engagement Officer prior to beginning the application process. They may be reached at:

- **Lisa Madry**; [lmadry@episcopalhealth.org](mailto:lmadry@episcopalhealth.org), 832-807-2586
- **Bob Flick**; [bflick@episcopalhealth.org](mailto:bflick@episcopalhealth.org), 832-807-2582

Applicants should not direct questions to Foundation Board members.

## Notifications

Email notifications are distributed by email following a decision. Recipients are expected to indicate agreement within ten business days of receiving a notice.

**Evaluation and Learning**

The Foundation values learning and evaluation for all stakeholders on the pathway to community health transformation. We look forward to ongoing engagement with congregations on this topic in order to fully realize the potential of the work they are doing.