

UMCOR Mustard Seed Migration Grants Call for Applications* Summer 2022

Every day, thousands of people flee their homes in search of a better life for their families. Global Ministries and UMCOR are committed to providing support for refugees and migrants around the world. This work fulfills the biblical mandate to “love thy neighbor” and “welcome the stranger.”

United Methodist congregations are invited to propose new and creative projects that meet specific needs or fill gaps for refugees and migrants. The Mustard Seed Migration Grant program will award up to \$2,000 to as many as 50 local United Methodist churches in the United States to engage in new, one-time community-based service projects focused on refugees and migration.

As Jesus described in his parable, mustard seeds have the potential to grow into something big or pervasive that spreads throughout a field. Our hope is that as congregations learn more about migrants in their local communities and address their needs through these grants, the “seed” of welcoming strangers might be planted in new ways around the country.

Examples of Mustard Seed Migration Grant projects might include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Providing food or non-food items to address basic needs
- Supporting school enrollment through parent outreach or purchase of school supplies
- Equipping children with musical or sports equipment to facilitate extracurricular involvement
- Offering English, financial literacy or civics classes for adult learners or tutoring
- Supplying families with cash vouchers for emergency rent, utilities or transportation
- Facilitating access to the internet with cell phones, laptops or internet subscriptions
- Distributing bicycles for transportation
- Assisting a newly arrived refugee family in setting up a new apartment

Application Process

Applications are now available at <https://umcmmission.org/migration/mustardseed/>. Completed applications must be signed by the project grant manager *and* senior pastor and include statements that explain:

- How refugees and migrants in the community will benefit from these activities
- How members of the congregation will benefit from these activities
- How many refugees and migrants will benefit from these activities
- How the church will identify or qualify refugees and migrants for this program
- In what ways the project activities are new for the congregation
- How the congregation will be directly involved in these project activities
- How the church will commit to educating or increasing awareness about migration in the entire congregation during the grant period

Eligibility

United Methodist churches in the U.S are eligible to apply (applicants who received a 2021 grant are not eligible for a 2022 grant). Applications must be signed by the project grant manager and senior pastor. Completed applications may be received at any time prior to **September 1, 2022** and will be reviewed and processed within a month of their receipt.

**This invitation to apply does not guarantee funding. UMCOR reserves the right to deny any request for funding at any time to any organization without providing cause.*

Selection Criteria

There may be more churches interested in this grant program than the amount of funds available, making this a competitive process. Applications should be informed by the populations they seek to serve and align with UMCOR’s mission and vision to serve migrants, whether they are refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, trafficked persons, stateless persons or economic and environmental migrants. Successful applications will:

- Initiate a new project or activity
- Include clear, concise and creative ideas
- Address local needs
- Fill a specific need or gap in services
- Involve the participation of the congregation
- Demonstrate a commitment to educating or increasing the awareness of the congregation regarding issues of migration
- Utilize funds in direct service of refugees or migrants
- Select beneficiaries on the basis of need
- Describe how the project is achievable within a six-month time frame
- Be feasible given the partner’s capacity, background, expertise, staffing, infrastructure, existing partnerships, and proposed budget
- Not exceed a budget of \$2,000

Grants will not be awarded to applications that include travel or the shipping or transporting of supplies; sub-granting to other organizations; proselytizing, pastoral care or worship; funding for continuation of an existing program; and/or attached documentation beyond what is requested in the application.

Questions

Questions about the application form or the process can be sent to mustardseed@umcor.org (no phone calls, please). Due to the high volume of applications expected, we will not be able to provide guidance or coaching about specific projects.

Grant Recipients

Approved grant recipients will receive an award notification and grant agreement within one month of receipt of application. UMCOR will begin processing payments upon receipt of the completed grant agreement. Unless otherwise requested, payments will be made by check to the local church applying for the grant. UMCOR will provide a link to an online grant orientation webinar following award notification. Approved grant activities may begin as early as June 1, 2022, and end as late as six months after signing the grant agreement. Upon completion of the project, grant recipients must submit a final report including a narrative, financial documentation and impact (a template will be provided).

Important Dates

September 1	Deadline for submitting applications via email to mustardseed@umcor.org
Within one month of receipt of application	Grant recipients will be notified by email
Upon completion of grant agreement	Grant period begins
Six months after signed grant agreement	Grant period ends
One month after grant period ends	Deadline for submitting grant reports