**UMCOR Mustard Seed Migration Grants**

**Call for Applications\***

**Summer 2021**

**Background**

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.”

**The Mustard Seed Migration Grants**

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.

Congregations are invited to propose new and creative projects that fill specific needs or gaps for refugees and migrants. 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 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

*\*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.*

**Application Process**

**Application Materials**

Mustard Seed Migration Grant Application

Wire Transfer Request form (optional at time of application)

**Eligibility**

United Methodist churches in the United States are eligible to apply. Applications must be signed by the senior pastor and lay leader of the local church and the bishop or director of connectional ministries of the annual conference. Completed applications must be received at mustardseed@umcor.org no later than Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

**Selection Criteria**

There may be more churches interested in this grant program than the amount of funds available, making this a competitive process. Successful applications will:

* Initiate a new project or activity
* Include clear, concise and creative ideas
* Address local needs
* 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 and need alone

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
* Documentation beyond the official Mustard Seed Migration Grant Application

**Questions**

Questions about the application form or the process can be sent tomustardseed@umcor.org. Due to the high volume of applications expected, we will not be able to answer questions about particular. *No phone calls please.*

**Grant Recipients**

Grant recipients will receive an award notification on June 1, which will include a grant agreement and wire transfer request form. UMCOR will begin processing payments upon receipt of these completed documents.

Grant recipients will be invited to a grant orientation webinar on June 3, 2021.

Approved grant activities may begin as early as June 15, 2021 and end as late as December 15, 2021. Grant recipients must submit a final report upon completion of their project. This report will have a narrative, financial and impact component. A template will be provided.

**Important Dates**

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| April 1 | Application will be available at [https://](https://gbgm-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mboice_umcmission_org/Documents/UMCOR/Mustard%20Seed%20Global%20Migration%20Grants%202021/MSMG%20Call%20for%20Applications-V5.docx?web=1)[umcmission.org/migration/mustardseed](http://umcmission.org/mustardseed)/ |
| May 16 | Deadline for submitting applications via email to mustardseed@umcor.org |
| June 1 | Grant recipients will be notified by email. Others will be notified after this date. |
| June 3 | Grant orientation webinar for grant recipients |
| June 15 | Grant period begins |
| December 15 | Grant period ends |
| January 14 | Deadline for submitting grant reports |