

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA to be used for programs that address "housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate." A panel will select recipients for grants of up to \$5,000 largely based on the degree to which the funds will be used to directly assist persons in poverty. Ministries must be in relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or ministry will be considered per year. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or organization, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

1. General Information:

Organization Name Worcester Fellowship
Affiliation with ABCUSA (Check made payable to) Trinity Church
Mailing Address 23 Main Street
Northborough, MA 01532
Phone 508-868-3248 Federal Tax ID# 76-0849935
Contact person Rev. Warren Hicks email pastor@worcesterfellowship.org

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- A financial statement FOR THIS MINISTRY. This can be a budget or projected budget, and should not exceed 2 pages. Church budgets are not acceptable.

3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

4. Total cost of the project \$5,000

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$5,000

6. Your other funding source(s) nila

I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct, and that we will use any granted funds as described. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed) Warren Earl Hicks + Date 8-26-2015

Printed Name/Title Warren Earl Hicks Executive Director
Pastor

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline is March 1 for grants distributed on April 15; Sept. 1 for grants distributed on Oct. 15
- Completed applications should be sent via email to Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.





Worcester Fellowship, Inc.
Mission Statement:

Worcester Fellowship is dedicated to ending isolation by nurturing community and providing pastoral care.

- Worcester Fellowship welcomes everyone
- Worcester Fellowship is an outdoor church
- Worcester Fellowship reaches out to homeless and at risk adults
- Worcester Fellowship believes God loves us now

Matthew 25 Grant – Worcester Fellowship Grant Proposal

Upon receipt of an ABC Matthew 25 Grant, Worcester Fellowship would use these funds to create an ‘Empowerment Matters’ ministry program. Our goals are two-fold: (1) Empower our congregation, who most days rely on assistance, to be able to help others in need by preparing Church World Service kits, and (2) Empower participants in our prison ministry (former prisoners) by providing material and emotional support for people typically coming out of prison empty handed.

Empowering the Congregation

Several times a year, members of Worcester Fellowship attempt to partner with supporting churches to conduct service activities. This partnering helps to empower members of Worcester Fellowship and to bridge the divide between the housed and the unhoused. As our congregation *is* the at risk community in Worcester our funding is minimal to provide materials to work on a project to ‘pay it forward’. One service activity that members of Worcester Fellowship have been interested in participating in is putting together Church World Services kits. These kits contain school or hygienic items and go to people throughout the world suffering from poverty. Putting these kits together would allow members of Worcester Fellowship to feel empowered to give back some of the support that they have been given.

Empowering Former Prisoners

More than 2,000 people are released from a Massachusetts correctional facility each year. Previous studies have shown that many ex-offenders return to their community without the material and emotional support they need to rebuild their lives, leaving them in conditions of extreme financial and emotional poverty. Many people are released with very little money and very little in the way of food, clothing and personal hygiene items making it harder to find steady housing and employment. For many ex-offenders, the highest risk of returning to prison comes within the first few weeks or months after release if they don’t have support to help them through this transition.

One of the goals of Worcester Fellowship is to empower and assist ex-offenders through the re-entry process and increase their chance of being successful. With the Matthew 25 Grant, Worcester Fellowship would be able to provide backpacks filled with soap, deodorant, toothbrush, tooth paste, and other personal hygiene items which would help ex-offenders to get back on their feet during those crucial first few weeks of release.

A key component of successful re-entry is support. Worcester Fellowship is committed to educating indoor (housed) congregations about the needs and struggles of ex-offenders returning from prison so that congregations will be better prepared to support people during this transition. Based on the numbers of people being released from prison every year, it’s likely that many churches will have someone in their congregation who is going through this difficult transition. Some of the funds from the Matthew 25 Grant would go towards outreach to educate indoor congregations of the importance of ‘Empowerment Matters’.

Budget for 'Empowerment Matters' Program

Worcester Fellowship

Materials

Materials for Church World Service Kits (school or hygienic items)	\$ 850
---	--------

Prison Re-Entry Backpacks and contents (backpacks, soap, deodorant, toothbrush/paste, personal hygiene items)	<u>\$1,600</u> \$2,450
---	----------------------------------

Coordinating and Facilitating

Church World Service Kits	\$ 550
---------------------------	--------

Prison Re-Entry Backpacks	<u>\$ 600</u> \$1,150
---------------------------	---------------------------------

Advocacy and Empowerment Education on Prison Re-entry	\$1,400
--	----------------

<i>Total</i>	<u>\$5,000</u>
---------------------------	-----------------------