

**American Baptist Home Mission Societies Children in Poverty Initiative
Grant Proposal Due by Wednesday, April 25, 2012
(Must be postmarked by 4/25/2012; no applications will be accepted by email)**

Overview

In 2005, the General Board of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) called upon ABCUSA and its constituent partners to “make the issue of Children in Poverty a priority of prayer, advocacy, ministry and stewardship. Let it occupy us in our sanctuaries, our fellowship halls, our communities and especially the halls of power.”

— A Declaration of Importance for American Baptists on the Issue of Children and Poverty (0054.38:6/05).

In 2006, the Board of National Ministries, ABCUSA, unanimously approved a Resolution on Children in Poverty (4701.48:11/06)¹ to raise awareness, reach out, pray and take action for children in the United States and Puerto Rico who struggle with poverty. Poverty in America is more pervasive than we willingly admit. Twenty to 25 percent of our children contend with inadequate nutrition, mediocre education, deficient health care and many other stumbling blocks to living an abundant life. Poverty affects us all, whether directly or indirectly, and the harsh reality that many of our children are living in families that are barely surviving calls for our compassionate response.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has been working with American Baptist congregations and regions to address the challenges of poverty and inspire hope in the lives of the more than 16 million children ages newborn to 18 in the United States and Puerto Rico who live in impoverished communities.

In an effort to encourage American Baptists in this ministry with children in local communities throughout the nation, ABHMS will award grants of various amounts—from \$1,000 to \$5,000—to qualified recipients. Not intended as a project’s sole support, the grants are awarded as expressions of gratitude to congregations, regions, and community ministries for answering the call to care for children and families struggling to overcome the challenge of poverty. At least 10 grants will be awarded in 2012.

Purpose — Address the needs of children in poverty within your local community.

The scope of accepted projects is within the three areas below; however, in 2012, greater attention will be given to projects that focus on partnership with a local public school during the 2012-2013 school year.

Quality Public School Education — Many public schools, especially in urban and rural communities, receive insufficient income for quality education. Public education is our largest civic institution, serving 52 million children. Yet one in three youth will not complete high school. Ministry in this area may include after-school and summer programs that feature academic support and academic skills development; partnership with schools/educators; partnership with parents and other caregivers; and advocacy.

Access to Quality Health Care — Nearly one in nine American children lacks health coverage, and 90 percent of children without adequate care live in households in which at least one parent is working. Ministry in this area may include hosting a health clinic or health fair to raise awareness and provide health screenings, and providing prevention education.

Livable Wages — Children are in poverty because their caregivers are in poverty. The 2010 poverty level for a family of four (including either one or two working adults) was \$24,000 per year. Families with income of twice that amount would struggle daily to provide quality basic needs. Ministry in this area can include

¹ See www.nationalministries.org/cip/docs/NM_resolution_on_CIP.pdf

English as a Second Language programs, skills enhancement, transition from homelessness to work, job training, small business development or other creative ideas that support the economic sufficiency of a family.

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Instructions

This is an annual grant process. Recipients in 2012 are not guaranteed recipients in 2013. Eligible applicants include American Baptist-related congregations and organizations.

Complete cover page and submit with proposal narrative.

- Describe the project for which you are requesting funds.
- Describe the target community and how it was identified as the target population. How will the project improve participants' quality of life?
- Describe one to three outcomes for this project.

For example:

- ▶ At least eight members of the church will work with educators in a local school to identify and work with at least 16 students for weekly homework assistance during the school year.
- ▶ We will host 30 students in after-school educational enrichment programs to help improve their grades.
- ▶ We will host a health screening/clinic and provide practical educational material five times during the year with a goal of reaching at least 25 children and their families at each screening.
- ▶ We will host a parent/student support event 10 times during the school year to provide parenting seminars to encourage better relationships between parent and student.

- How will you know that you have achieved your outcome(s)?
- How will this outreach be an expression of the Gospel?
- Describe your existing financial and staff/volunteer commitment to this project.
- Who are your partners in this outreach? Describe their roles.
- (Optional) Include a statement of support from participant or caregiver of participant, explaining the benefits of this project.

Complete proposal should not exceed cover page, three pages double-spaced and one-page statement of support.

Submit proposals to Office of Children in Poverty Initiative, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851.

Proposals must be received by April 25, 2012. Recipients will be notified by June 29, 2012.

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Cover Page

Name of Program/Project: _____

Name of American Baptist Sponsoring Organization (e.g., Congregation, Christian Center, Region):

Contact Person(s) with title(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address(es): _____ **Daytime Contact Number(s):** _____

Budget **We plan to participate in the USDA Summer Food Program**
Amount of Request: _____ **Yes** _____ **No** _____

	ABHMS Grant	Other Contributions	In Kind/Volunteer Support
Staff:			
Supplies:			
Transportation:			
Other:			
Sub-Total	= to amount of request		
Total Cost of Project/ Program: \$			

Agreement:

If awarded this grant from ABHMS, our organization agrees to fulfill the following expectations:

- 1) Submit six- and 12-month progress reports within 30 days of designated date;**
- 2) Provide photographs (with appropriate permission for use) and stories;**
- 3) Grant permission to share the story in ABHMS publications and on website; and**
- 4) Inform ABHMS if program/project is discontinued within grant period.**

Contact Person

Date

Pastor/Executive Minister/Director

Date