
**National Ministries' Children in Poverty Initiative
Request for Grant Proposals
Due Friday, April 30, 2010**

Overview

In 2005, the ABCUSA General Board called upon its constituent partners and American Baptist churches 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, American Baptist Churches USA, unanimously approved a Resolution on Children in Poverty (4701.48:11/06) 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 is a reality that calls for our compassionate response.

National Ministries 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 14 million children, from newborn to age 18, who live in impoverished communities in the United States and Puerto Rico.

To encourage American Baptists ministering to children in local communities throughout the nation, National Ministries will award grants of varying amounts—no less than \$1,000 and no more than \$5,000—to qualified recipients. The grants are not intended to support complete projects. Rather they serve to recognize congregations, regions and community ministries as an expression of gratitude for answering the call to care for struggling children and families. At least 10 grants will be awarded in 2010.

Purpose

Ministries that address the needs of children in poverty within a local community will be eligible for grants. The scope of accepted projects is broad, but greater attention will be given to projects that address at least one of the following three areas:

Quality Public School Education – Many public schools, especially in urban and rural communities, do not receive sufficient income for quality education. Public education, which serves 52 million children, is our largest civic institution; however, one out of three youth will not complete high school. Ministry in this area may include after-school and summer programs that provide academic support and skills development; partnerships with schools/educators; partnerships with parents and other caregivers; and political advocacy.

Access to Quality Health Care – Nearly one in nine American children lacks health coverage, and 90 percent of children without adequate health care live in households where 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; providing prevention education or transportation; and political advocacy.

Livable Wages – Children are in poverty because their caregivers are in poverty. The 2009 poverty level income for a family of four (which includes one or two working adults) was \$22,090 a year for all states except Alaska and Hawaii. Families with income of twice that amount struggle everyday to provide quality basic needs. Ministry in this area can include English as second language programs; skill enhancement; transition from homelessness to work programs; political advocacy; job training; and support for small business development or other creative ideas that support the economic sufficiency of a family.

National Ministries' Children in Poverty Initiative Grant Application Instructions

This is an annual grant process. Recipients in 2010 are not guaranteed grants in 2011. To be eligible for a grant, applicants must be American Baptist-related congregations or organizations.

Complete cover page and submit with narrative.

- Tell us your story of ministry with children in poverty.
- Describe the project for which you are requesting funds.
- Describe the target community/population and how it was identified.
- How will the project improve the quality of life for participants?
- Does the project address quality education, health care or livable wages? If yes, how?
- How will you know your project is successful?
- What will be your greatest challenge(s) to success?
- How will this outreach be an expression of the Gospel?
- Describe your existing financial and staff/volunteer commitment to this project.
- What resources will you need to achieve your goals? How will you bring those resources to the table?
- 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.

Completed proposal should include cover page, written proposal (not to exceed three pages doublespaced) and a one-page statement of support.

Submit proposals to:

(Via U.S. Postal Service)
Office of Children in Poverty Initiative
National Ministries
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851.

(Via e-mail with electronic signatures)
lisa.harris@abc-usa.org

Proposals **must be received by April 30, 2010**. Recipients will be notified by June 15, 2010.

Request for Children in Poverty Grant Proposal Cover Page

Name of Program/Project:

Name of American Baptist Sponsoring Organization
(example: congregation, Christian center, region):

Contact Person(s) with Title:

Mailing Address:

E-mail Address: _____

Daytime Contact Number: _____

Budget: _____

Amount of Request: _____

	National Ministries Grant	Other Contributions	In Kind/ Volunteer Support
Staff			
Supplies			
Transportation			
Other			
Subtotal	= to amt. of request		
Total Cost of Project/ Program: \$			

Agreement

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

- 1) Submit a six-month and 12-month report of progress within 30 days of designated date;
- 2) Provide photos (with appropriate permission for use) and stories;
- 3) Grant permission to share our story in National Ministries' publications and on Web site; and
- 4) Inform National Ministries if program/project is discontinued within grant period.

Contact Person

Date

Pastor/Executive Minister/Director

Date
