



All Souls Church Unitarian

a diverse, spirit-growing, justice-seeking community

All Souls / Beckner Advancement Fund 2016-2017 Guidelines for External Grants

Background

All Souls Church, Unitarian has a long history of working for social justice and fighting against oppression of all kinds. Our proud tradition of public witness here in the nation's capital dates back to standing against slavery and continues to this day. For almost two centuries, the congregation has worked to make our city, our nation, and our world more just and compassionate.

All Souls members Earl and Meta Beckner endowed the Beckner Fund in 1973. The Deed of Gift states their desire to “make the Church and surrounding community more cohesive, attractive, and forward-looking; foster human rights and dignity; and enhance the influence of All Souls Church in the Washington metropolitan area.”

Goals

Grounded in commitment to social-change philanthropy, the Beckner Fund distributes about \$70,000 each year to support efforts that advance the All Souls' social justice mission. Internal grants fund the church's own social justice activities. External grants support DC organizations with significant presence in Ward 1, where All Souls is located. The Fund considers proposals for external grants that address at least one of the following areas:

- Racial and ethnic justice, including criminal justice reform and police accountability
- Safe, affordable housing
- Environmental justice
- Immigration and refugees

In addition to the priorities above, we will consider projects that strengthen the community by fostering connections across differences of identity, culture, and community role/status.

The Beckner Committee, made up of All Souls Church members and coordinated by an appointed member of All Souls' staff, manages the Fund. Most external grants provide \$5,000-\$10,000 to be spent on projects within one grant year. The Committee actively solicits projects in all priority areas. However, each proposal is judged on its own merits rather than by category; the final slate of grantees will not necessarily represent all issue areas.

In many cases, partnerships between grantee organizations and church groups can strengthen community relationships and increase the impact of funded projects. The Fund encourages such partnerships whenever they are possible and mutually desirable.

Eligibility

All applicant organizations *must*:

- have 501(c)3 nonprofit status (or, for new organizations, a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor) *and*
- be located in Ward 1 and/or demonstrate significant ties to Ward 1 neighborhoods and residents.

The Fund will *not* consider requests to fund:

- individuals,
- sectarian programs that promote religious doctrine,
- organizations with annual budgets over \$500,000, or
- general operating support.

Funding Considerations

The Beckner Fund prioritizes proposals for organizations and projects that:

- address root causes of social service needs (rather than providing direct services),
- actively engage the community they serve in developing program strategies,
- effectively measure their success (or are building systems to do so),
- seek support for new initiatives or for project components that build capacity of existing programs,
- demonstrate willingness to educate and include All Souls members in their work for social change, and

- have existing relationships with All Souls Church or its members.

How to Apply

The Fund has designed a streamlined process to accommodate the many requests it receives for its limited resources.

1. Prospective grantees submit a pre-application form (attached), created to be used in lieu of a traditional Letter of Inquiry (LOI).
2. The Fund invites full proposals from selected organizations.
3. During proposal review, the Fund may schedule informal interviews as needed.

Prospective grantees must submit all documents via email to ascu.beckner@gmail.com. Whenever possible, please combine all documents to submit as a single file. Please note that the Fund *will not* review documents that are submitted late or in hard copy.

Timeline

The Committee will make every attempt to follow the general timeline below. Please keep in mind that Committee members are volunteers and adjustments may become necessary.

December 7, 2016:	Pre-application forms (attached) due by 5:00 PM.
January 2017:	Fund notifies applicants of decisions to invite or decline full proposals.
February 15, 2017:	Full proposals due.
February – March 2017:	Proposal review period. The Committee may request informal interviews if needed.
March - April 2017:	Applicants notified of final funding decisions.
April - May 2017:	Funds disbursed.

For each grant request approved, the applicant will receive an award letter stating the amount of the grant, the period for which the funds are available, and any special conditions under which the award is made.

Questions?

Please first review this document and the Beckner Fund website (www.all-souls.org/beckner). If you have further questions, you may contact the All Souls Beckner Committee at ascu.beckner@gmail.com.



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All Souls/Beckner Advancement Fund Pre-Application for 2017 External Grants

The All Souls/Beckner Advancement Fund receives many requests for its limited funds. To streamline the selection process, the Fund requires prospective grantees to complete this pre-application form and submit it via email to ascu.beckner@gmail.com. *This is a fillable form.* Please type your responses as indicated. Note that the Fund *will not* review documents that are submitted late, handwritten, or in hard copy.

Contact Information:

Organization Name: [Click here to enter name.](#)

Address: [Click here to enter address.](#)

Contact Person (Name, Title): [Click here to enter name and title.](#)

Email: [Click here to enter address.](#)

Phone: [Click here to enter number.](#)

I. Eligibility Checklist:

1. Does your organization have 501(c)(3) status?

Yes. EIN: [Click here to enter EIN.](#)

No.

If no, does your fiscal sponsor have 501(c)(3) status?

Yes. Name of fiscal sponsor: [Click here to enter name.](#)

EIN of fiscal sponsor: [Click here to enter EIN.](#)

No. Your organization is not eligible to receive Beckner funds.

2. Is your organization's total budget less than \$500,000?

Yes. Total organizational budget: \$ [Click here to enter amount.](#)

No. Your organization is not eligible to receive Beckner funds.

3. Is your organization physically located in Ward 1?

- Yes.
- No.

If no, can your organization demonstrate significant ties to Ward 1 neighborhoods and residents?

Yes. Please explain:

Type response here. Do not exceed allocated space.

No. Your organization is not eligible to receive Beckner funds.

4. Are you requesting funds for an individual?

- No.
- Yes. Your project is not eligible for Beckner funds.

5. Do you plan to use funds for a sectarian program that promotes a religious doctrine?

- No.
- Yes. Your project is not eligible for Beckner funds.

6. Do you plan to apply funds toward general operating support?

- No.
- Yes. Your project is not eligible for Beckner funds.

7. Does your request address at least one of All Souls Church's current social justice priority areas?

Yes. Check all that apply:

- Safe, affordable housing
- Environmental justice
- Racial and ethnic justice
- Immigration and refugees
- Fostering community connections across cultural and other differences

No. Your project is not eligible for Beckner funds.

II. About Your Organization

Mission Statement:

Type response here. Do not exceed allotted space.

Organization's History/Background:

Type response here. Do not exceed allotted space.

List any prior support from the Beckner Fund, if applicable. *Current grantees, please provide an update on the progress of your 2016 grant project.*

Type response here. Do not exceed 300 words.

III. About Your Request

Project Title: [Click here to enter title.](#)

Project Budget: \$[Click here to enter budget.](#) Amount Requested: \$ [Click here to enter amount.](#)

Project Summary:

Type response here. Do not exceed 75 words.

How does this project address the All Souls Church social justice priority area(s) you marked in question I.7 on the Eligibility Checklist?

Type response here. Do not exceed 100 words.

Is this project a new initiative? Does it build capacity of existing programs? Describe the role

the project will play in meeting your organization's mission.

Type response here. Do not exceed 150 words.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____