



Presbyterian Committee on the
Self-Development of People

COMMUNITY GRANTS FOR LOW INCOME GRASSROOTS GROUPS



Promote Justice

Build Stronger Communities

Seek Economic Equity





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WHAT IS THE PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)?

In the late 1960s, as poverty and oppression continued their chokehold on disadvantaged communities, several activists, including James Forman, turned to mainline denominations to “step up” and make a difference. The Presbyterian Church took Forman’s message seriously — creating what came to be known as the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP).

SDOP is a ministry that affirms God’s concern for humanity. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners, dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting and enabling. SDOP works toward the self-development and empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people who seek to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice.

“Our partnership couldn’t have come at a better time ... It catapulted us into action. We had been working in homes and cars. SDOP helped get office space that was essential for training and meetings and provided us with a central location to store products.”

— Monica Lewis-Patrick,
We the People of Detroit
(Detroit Water Crisis
Hotline Project)

LEFT: Strength to Love
Farms, Baltimore, MD

An urban farm owned and maintained by returning citizens and community members. It also addresses the issue of a food desert in the neighborhood.

RIGHT: We the People
of Detroit, Detroit, MI

Operates the Water Rights Hotline, Emergency Water Stations, and Emergency Water Drops for seniors and others with no running water.





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CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS*

Projects must be presented, owned and controlled by the group of economically poor people who will benefit directly from them, and address long-term correction of conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression.

**Partial criteria. See website for complete criteria. pcusa.org/sdop*



OGHS SOURCE OF FUNDS

SDOP's primary source of income is approximately one-third of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), a special offering taken up by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to raise funds in order to partner with underresourced communities all over the world. The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance also receive a portion of the funds. Visit specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs to learn more about the OGHS offering and/or to give.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

LEFT:

ONE DC, Washington D.C. — Housing advocacy to ensure affordable housing for low income residents of DC.

RIGHT:

Craft Art and Beauty, Las Tablas, Panama — Artisans partnered to create a workshop and a warehouse for the preparation and sale of traditional Panamanian clothing.



THINGS TO KNOW

- 1** Applications are accepted year-round at the national level. The application cycle is three to six months, with decisions made in January, May, September and December. Groups are not required to have 501(c)(3) status. It is unusual for a group of less than 10 people to receive funding.
- 2** A group may apply for funding at the Mid Council level (i.e., Presbytery or Synod), at the National level or at all three (Presbytery, Synod or National) levels simultaneously. Mid Councils (Presbytery and Synod SDOP Committees) should be contacted directly.
- 3** Self-Development of People seeks to partner with communities; therefore, SDOP funds youth-led projects only if the youth directly own and control the project. We do not fund children's projects because the group members need to be old enough to directly own and control the project.
- 4** While the following do not meet the SDOP criteria, congregations, faith-based organizations, fiscal sponsors and organizing groups are encouraged to reach out to communities and provide help to groups as they develop projects.
- 5** SDOP does not fund private businesses, service organizations or scholarships. SDOP is interested in partnering with cooperatives that will enhance community economic development.
- 6** While congregations and other organizing groups are encouraged to reach out to communities and provide help to groups as they develop projects, the projects must meet SDOP criteria.

For applications, additional information and complete criteria, visit pcusa.org/sdop.



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COMMUNITY GRANT WORKSHOPS

Self-Development of People (SDOP) community grant workshops explain the SDOP program, how it works, what qualifies a group for funding, the grant application process and examples of past SDOP-funded projects (community partners). Community workshops explaining the SDOP program are held in various regions of the country throughout the year. Attendance is not required to apply for a grant.

To apply, visit our website and download an application at pcusa.org/sdop.

SOCIAL ISSUES WORKSHOPS

Immigration, poverty/justice, housing, land trust, grants, community organizing, economic equity and others.

RIGHT:

Burmese International Refugee Development, Lansing, Michigan — Community garden to cultivate crops, some for individuals unable to work and some to sell for profit.



“SDOP is truly living the vision of what Matthew 25:31–46 is all about.”

— Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson,
SDOP Coordinator

COVER PHOTOS:

Top left:

Trio Farmers in Development Pre-Cooperative, Trio Village, Belize — The farmers of this cooperative are trying new methods of growing seedlings in tunnels that will improve the yield of their crops.

Top right:

Ekvn-Yefolecv Indigenous Maskoke Ecovillage, Weogufka, Alabama — Ekvn-Yefolecv is creating an ecovillage community that provides the opportunity for individuals and kin to efficaciously revitalize Maskoke language, traditions, and worldview while embodying a collective commitment to environmental sustainability.

Bottom left:

Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE DC), Washington D.C. — Housing advocacy to ensure affordable housing for low income residents of D.C.

Bottom right:

Corazon de Mujer (Women's Heart) Indigenous group, Guatemala — The group has been a long time partner of CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America). CEDEPCA is an SDOP intermediary partner in Guatemala.

Questions?

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SelfDevelopmentOfPeoplesdop



People Investing in People
Homelessness
Capacity Building • Community Development
Community Gardens • Water
Relationships • Anti-poverty
Community Organizing • Training
Community Re-entry • Worker-owned Cooperatives
Education • Domestic Violence
Economic Development
Environment • Fair Wages
Food Security • Health
Human Rights • Immigration
Leadership Development • Seniors
Transportation
Women • Youth



Presbyterian Mission
**Presbyterian Committee on
the Self-Development of People**



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SPECIAL OFFERINGS
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