



GLOBAL MINISTRIES NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANT

Background

More than 15 million U.S. children live in "food-insecure" households — having limited access to adequate food and nutrition due to cost, proximity and/or other resources. Low income individuals are at increased risk for both food insecurity and obesity. Lower-income individuals often have more limited access to affordable, healthier food options — living in neighborhoods with fewer grocery stores with less healthy options — and that have more available less expensive food options, such as processed or fast foods, are of lower nutritional value and are calorie-dense with added sugar and/ or fats.¹

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that poor dietary choices are linked to obesity, high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and cancer. These are all leading causes of death and unfortunately poor and minority groups bear the highest disease burden. Effectively addressing poor nutrition during childhood and adolescence can significantly impact prevention and treatment of these health problems.

To achieve Global Ministries' vision of abundant health for all, we seek opportunities to remove barriers to healthy nutrition caused by lack of access, availability, affordability, lack of education and other social factors, through community-based programs. The Global Health Unit of Global Ministries through the generous contributions of United Methodists is providing nutrition project grants to faith-based partners to plan and implement local, culturally appropriate programs to promote healthy eating among low income and vulnerable communities in the United States.

Program Goal: To improve child health and wholeness through proven nutrition interventions in targeted underserved communities in the United States.

Objectives

- 1) Change food preferences in target population (e.g., cooking classes, nutrition education, etc.)
- 2) Increase availability and accessibility of fresh fruits and vegetables in target population
- 3) Increase the purchasing power and affordability of healthy food options in low income communities

Sample activities

- Healthy cooking/nutrition classes
- Food vouchers for healthy food options

¹ The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America



- Community gardens
- Farmer's markets and encouraging fresh produce at neighborhood stores, and other retail outlets in underserved communities.
- Additional fresh produce vouchers for vulnerable families who rely on food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to purchase foods from local farmers' markets and other healthy food retailers. (See <http://midtownfarmersmarket.org/ebt/> for an example of a Market Bucks program).
- Development, expansion, or renovation of fresh food retail establishments, such as supermarkets or grocery stores.
- See other guidelines and strategies for improving nutrition <http://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/strategies-guidelines/index.html>

Eligibility

Eligible organizations must have

- Non-profit status: 501C3 and registration in the state for proposed project (copies to be sent with proposal)

Preference will be given to organizations with:

- Affiliation to the United Methodist Church
- At least two years of demonstrated knowledge and expertise in the development and evaluation of nutrition services in low income communities
- Documentation of the organizational capacity, knowledge, and expertise to implement evidence based nutrition interventions
- Evidence of local contributions and community partnership for project implementation

Application Process

- Applications to be submitted via the online application portal. Please submit a one page letter of intent to srodgers@umcmmission.org requesting the application link.
- A grant of **\$50,000** (maximum) will be awarded to successful agencies
- Successful applicants will have grants disbursed following a signed letter of agreement which includes reporting requirements and program policies
- Project timeframe:
- Application Due Date:

Contact person: Sabrina Rodgers (srodgers@umcmmission.org)