

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA to be used for programs that address "housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate." A panel will select recipients for grants of up to \$5,000 largely based on the degree to which the funds will be used to directly assist persons in poverty. Ministries must be in relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or ministry will be considered per year. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or organization, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

1. General Information:

Organization Name **Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement** _____
Affiliation with ABCUSA (Check made payable to) **Calvary Baptist Church** _____
Mailing Address **215 East Delaware Ave. Newark, DE 19711** _____
Phone **302-656-8200** _____ Federal Tax ID# **27-1488886** _____
Contact person **Darlene Battle** _____ email dbattle@delaca.org _____

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- A financial statement FOR THIS MINISTRY. This can be a budget or projected budget, and should not exceed 2 pages. Church budgets are not acceptable.

3. How do you plan to **use the requested funds**? How will the funds **specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects**? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

4. Total cost of the project **\$31,640.00** _____

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant **\$5,000** _____

6. Your other funding source(s) New Castle County of Delaware, FLEF, and Delawareans for Social and Economic Justice (DSEJ)

I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct, and that we will use any granted funds as described. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed) Darlene Battle Date 2/9/2016

Printed Name/Title Executive Director

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline is March 1 for grants distributed on April 15; Sept. 1 for grants distributed on Oct. 15
- Completed applications should be sent via email to Tina.Turner@abcusa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted



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Mission Statement

The mission of the DACA is to empower low- and moderate-income people to improve their communities. DACA, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2009, is founded on the belief that low- and moderate-income people should receive and are educated/trained on equal services and have a voice and a role in the policies and institutions that have an impact on their lives through education and training these issues extend from: affordable housing, foreclosure prevention, affordable utilities program, rentals rights, equal education, banks regulation, jobs/job creation, and livable wages.

The Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement (DACA) is a community-based organization committed to breaking the cycle of poverty in Delaware's low- and moderate-income communities. Our approach is to focus on young people (ages 15-25), because they can most easily change their life trajectories given the right tools.

How do you plan to use the requested funds?

The funds will help with two kinds of our youth interventions. The first set of interventions is very direct. We help young people access the money they need to pursue their dreams of college and career preparation. We help youth fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to make college affordable, and we assist youth and their families in applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), funds which youth and families can use to subsidize the direct and indirect cost of pursuing an education.

Address the cost issue: The cost of college keeps too many talented young people from low-income backgrounds from applying. Many young people are not aware of the availability of federal financial aid, so financial aid counseling can significantly increase outcomes. One study found that 85% of highly qualified high school students who received financial aid counseling attended college, versus only 50% of highly qualified youth who did not have access to this kind of counseling.¹

Another source of funding for college that is available to low-income youth and their families is the Earned Income Tax Credit, a tax benefit for low- and moderate-income working families which more than 6 million people a year over the poverty line. Unfortunately, the IRS estimates that 21 percent of eligible workers do not apply for the credit. DACA's tax outreach and tax preparation work helps young working people and families claim the credit. We also offer ongoing financial literacy programs, encouraging youth and their families to consider using part of their refund for education savings.

Provide work experience: The volunteer opportunities we offer to young people as financial peer counselors and tax preparers help the youth volunteers build marketable skills. We train young people to be IRS-certified tax preparers and peer college financial counselors, as well as offering them experience in outreach, marketing, data management, and general office skills. This volunteer experience gives youth the chance to explore their talents and imagine a future for themselves as accountants, marketing executives, nonprofit directors, etc.

Impact on Quality of Life by assisting youth to battle poverty

DACA's programs have grown exponentially over a few short years because we take a community organizing approach to our work. Instead of waiting in an office for clients to come to us, the heart of our work is outreach. Our staff and volunteers are in and out of schools, recreation centers, places of worship, and other community gathering places every day. Because we are a community-based organization, we stay in contact with many of the youth we serve, providing the long-term support youth need to break old habits and reimagine futures for themselves.

DACA will provide college financial counseling services and complete FAFSA forms for 3,000 students in 2016. During the federal tax season, mid-January through April 15, DACA will provide free tax preparation services for 2,000 eligible tax payers in New Castle. Additionally, we will offer free tax services to another 500 tax payers from May through October, processing federal extensions, preparing back taxes, and resolving tax problems and establishing payment schedules. We recruit volunteers from the communities we serve to participate in these programs, offering valuable work experience. DACA will train 50-75 young people to be IRS-certified tax preparers or peer financial counselors in 2016, and offer less intensive volunteer experiences to dozens of others. As a result of our work, thousands of young people who grew up in poverty will find pathways to rewarding, family-sustaining careers, breaking the cycle of poverty in Delaware's lowest-income neighborhoods.

¹ Breakthrough Collaborative. March 2010 Research Brief: Barriers to College for High-Achieving Students, p. 2. Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement (DACA) 408 East 8th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801



Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement
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**Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement
Tax Preparers and Financial Aid Counselors Youth Training
Project Budget Period 2016-2017
From June, 2016 through April, 2017**

Funds requested

FLEF	\$4,250.00
New Castle County, DE	\$10,000
DSEJ	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$19,250.00

Expenses

Salaries	15,840
Training	3,100
Equipment	4,400
Supplies	1,900
Stipends	2,400
Marketing	4,000
TOTAL	\$31,640.00