

## ABC-USA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

1. General Information Church or Region: First Baptist Church, Iowa City, IA  
Region Affiliation with ABCUSA: Mid-American  
Ministry or Group receiving these funds: Inside Out Reentry Community, Inc.  
Mailing Address: 500 N. Clinton St. Iowa City, IA 52245  
Phone: 319-338-7996  
Federal Tax ID#: 475350218  
Contact person: Michael Cervantes , Inside Out Director  
Email: [insideoutreentry@gmail.com](mailto:insideoutreentry@gmail.com)

2. Inside Out (IO) was started through a Palmer Trust grant from the American Baptist Foundation to First Baptist in Oct., 2014 and officially began accepting referrals in Jan., 2015. IO became an independent non-profit agency incorporated in Iowa in Oct., 2015, and is awaiting it's federal 501(c)3 tax exempt status (applied for in Dec., 2015). Three of seven IO Board members are members of FBC, as are several volunteers.

Inside Out's mission, as a comprehensive reentry program, is to heal individuals, restore relationships, and to ensure justice by supporting people returning to our community from incarceration and their families. Inside Out Reentry Community is comprised of citizens recently returning after incarceration, their family and friends, and support volunteers. The support members of the IO community provide one-to-one and small group mentoring, resource referral, tutoring and other services to the returning citizens, but we all consider ourselves one community that seeks personal and social change from the inside out. IO is not a faith-based community but we do encourage spiritual exploration as one means of growth and change.

Inside Out participants have access to the IO drop-in resource center located at First Baptist Church where they can get assistance with job and housing applications, GED and other tutoring, resource referrals, and general problem solving with the program director and trained volunteers. The Center also serves as a safe space for socializing, as well as for community meetings, life skills classes, and other activities. Another important aspect of IO is "paying it forward" by volunteering as a group in the wider community, advocating for policy changes that would remove obstacles for returning citizens, promoting racial and economic justice more broadly, and educating the public about these issues.

Currently, Inside Out Reentry Community is working with 21 individuals returning from incarceration and we have 18 regularly-scheduled volunteers involved each week ,as well as others who help on an occasional basis.

### Inside Out Reentry Community 2016 Budget

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Annual Expenses, USD</b>
Resource Center maintenance/cleaning / supplies	\$500
Computer Purchasing and Updates	\$1500
Educational Materials	\$1300
Materials and supplies for Community Activities	\$1500
Outreach and Service	\$1500
Office and other program supplies	\$1600
Stipends for contracted instructors/trainers	\$500
Volunteer training materials	\$200
Emergency Loan Fund for returnees	\$1500
Child Care and children's activities	\$500
Transportation	
- Bus Passes	\$2000
- Van Maintenance	\$1000
- Gas	\$1500
Insurance	
-Auto	\$400
-Liability	\$180
Food	\$2000
Emergency Loan Fund	\$2000
Personnel	
-Director's Salary	\$15600
-Finance Administrator	\$3900
-Payroll Taxes	\$1150
Rental Assistance	\$10000
Total Expenses	\$50330

<b>Income</b>	<b>Annual Income, USD</b>
In-Kind Contributions	
-Rent and Utilities (from First Baptist)	\$3500
-Phone/internet (from First Baptist)	\$1500
-1/2 Finance Administrator wages (First Baptist)	\$1950
Cash Income	
-First Baptist Church (grant)	\$4000
-Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (grant)	\$1500
-Consultation of Religious Communities (grant)	\$8000
-Housing Trust of Johnson County (Rental Asst.)	\$10000
- Other Grants	\$10000
- Direct Mailing to supporters	\$4000

- Crowdfsource funding	\$5000
- Annual Fundraising Event	\$1000
Total Income*	\$50450

\* Inside Out is working with several local churches to apply for local and denominational grants, is in the process of applying for other private and public funding, and is preparing a crowd source funding drive.

3. Matthew 25 grant funds will be used in the following ways:

Transportation -- \$3500 request (of \$4500 expected annual transportation costs)

\$2000 -- for 25 monthly bus passes (\$32 each) and 20 10-ride passes (\$10 each)

\$500 – van maintenance and repairs

\$1000 – gasoline for van

Affordable housing and adequate employment are the two greatest barriers faced by returning citizens, especially in our college town that has an on-going affordable housing crisis and a huge supply of students available for entry-level jobs. Reliable transportation is needed to get to job and housing interviews, to get to and from work, as well as to get to appointments and other support services.

Participants who have no other transportation are eligible for a monthly bus pass during the first 2 months of their involvement with Inside Out and on an emergency basis after that (e.g., during car repairs, between reliable car pools). IO also has a van used to transport participants in groups to employment fairs, cultural events, service projects, community meetings, and social events, as well as occasionally for individual job or housing interviews or medical appointments.

Small Loan Program -- \$1500 request of \$2000 expected minimal annual cost (there are always more valid loan requests than the IO loan fund can meet)

Limited assistance is offered to Inside Out participants as no-interest, short-term loans of up to \$300 per loan and no more than \$500 per person during their first two years after incarceration. Our loan program currently has a 90% repayment rate. Because of competition for jobs, people often need to come up with work uniforms or equipment in just one or two days, which is often not financially feasible. Extra expenses like car repairs or travel to a family funeral are often beyond the means of returning citizens in the first several months of employment. Loan funds are also occasionally used for paying overdue bills or fines to keep them from going to a collection agency, paying past utility bills so utilities can be hooked up, and for maintaining phone service, which is absolutely necessary for those working through temporary employment agencies and for those applying for jobs or housing. Other sources of

funds for all these emergent needs are sought if time permits and eligibility requirements are met. People with outstanding loans are required to participate in various personal finance workshops (depending on what is currently being offered) and maintain weekly participation in Inside Out overall.

4. The American Bar Association recently released a comprehensive report cataloging the more than 40,000 barriers, financial and otherwise, faced by formerly incarcerated individuals on their release from prison. Nearly all people returning to our area after incarceration face a real scarcity of affordable rental units and of decently paid employment (the local minimum wage is \$10/hour and the “livable” wage is \$15/hour). Transportation, clothing, and food are also immediate expenses. Often people also often face accrued fines, court costs, and back child support. In addition, returning people often need to access substance abuse, mental health and health care services, which may involve some out-of-pocket expense. Most have no savings and few receive financial support from their families, either because it’s not there to give or because of broken relationships with family. Returning citizens’ financial poverty is often compounded by social isolation and sometimes by an inner sense of unworthiness or hopelessness before they even get started on the community re-integration process.

According to the ABA, success in finding a place to live and securing employment within the first few weeks of returning to their community are critical to people’s continuing reentry success. Reentry success is in turn critical for slowly climbing out of the poverty nearly all returning citizens face.

The funds we are requesting from the Matthew 25 Grant would assist individuals address their basic needs of finding employment and housing by providing transportation. And loan funds requested would help people maintain their housing and employment when emergent expenses arise by giving them crisis loan assistance. This also helps them learn to manage their finances and build up good credit.

In addition, IO addresses the effects of poverty directly and indirectly by providing life-skills classes, mentoring, resource referral, problem-solving assistance, and a community of support.

**5. Total cost of the project:**

See Inside Out 2016 budget under #2, amounting to \$50,330.

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

**7. Your other funding source(s):**

First Baptist Church

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Consultation of Religious Communities

Housing Trust of Johnson County

Funding is expected from several other local churches and/or their judicatories

Individual donations

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/photos within six months of receipt of the grant.

Application submitted by: Michael Cervantes

Date: February 29, 2016

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