

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 a direct relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or Region will be considered per 12 month period. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions or for capital improvements to facilities. Grant awards will be sent to the ABC church or Region, checks will not be made payable to an individual or ministry.

1. General Information

Church or Region:

Region Affiliation with ABCUSA:

Ministry or Group receiving these funds:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Federal Tax ID#:

Contact person:

Email:

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. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?

4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?

5. Total cost of the project:

6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant:

7. Your other funding source(s):

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:

Date:

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; September 1 for grants distributed on October 15
- Completed applications should be sent via email to Tina.Turner@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

See the following information and instructions for more details.

1. General Information

Dismas House of Massachusetts, Inc. is a tax- exempt charitable 501(c)(3) agency that manages a network of housing and social services in the Greater Worcester, MA area. Named for the good thief St. Dismas, who was crucified and promised paradise with Jesus, Dismas has provided an integrated approach to ensure the success of homeless and former prisoners in Greater Worcester for over 25 years. The Dismas model seeks to provide a safety net and social network for former prisoners through a combination of targeted resources developed by staff, oversight and strategic planning by a diverse Board of Directors representative of the Greater Worcester community and the active daily involvement of volunteers and mentors from the wider community. Through these efforts, Dismas has emerged as a leader in developing a comprehensive response to the dual crises of homelessness and flawed prisoner reentry programs within the Greater Worcester area. Our program includes three distinct housing sites geared to support residents through all stages of their recovery and reintegration: Dismas Family Farm in Oakham, Dismas House on Richards Street in Worcester, and the Father Brooks House on Arthur Street in Worcester. Additionally, Dismas House sponsors various community-wide initiatives such as the free civil legal aid program BAR None, the Worcester Green Low-Income Housing Coalition (WGLIHC), and the Worcester Homeless Action Committee (WHAC).

The Dismas model begins with the interviewing of prospective program candidates in prisons, shelters and on the streets. Upon acceptance, new residents enter a family-style atmosphere and benefit from a network of resources specifically geared to address the needs of each person. In addition to providing a continuum of social services to assist with employment, substance abuse recovery, and housing, Dismas House also promotes community-building, family reunification, and social responsibility to counter the isolating and disempowering effects of incarceration. Residents share in dinner nightly with staff, volunteers and former residents. Residents participate in a weekly house meeting and make household decisions. The expectations and responsibilities of residency contribute to the model's success. Residents are expected to make at least a three-month commitment to Dismas House (average length of stay is six to nine months and there are no limits to length of stay), to live drug and violence-free, and to participate in the consensus decision-making of the community. Residents abide by curfews and attend NA/AA meetings.

The Dismas model and mission have been hailed nationally as best-practices toward solving issues associated with homelessness and prisoner re-entry. In fact, recidivism rates for graduates of the Dismas House program are approximately 50% of the Massachusetts state average. In response to such successes, Dismas House was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Edward Kennedy Community Health Award in 2015 and the Pioneer Institute awarded Dismas House special recognition in its 2015 Better Government Competition. Dismas House continues to work closely with an array of housing, government, philanthropic and academic evaluation partners such as Brandeis University and the Ted Kennedy Healthcare Center to assess our programs and forge partnerships. Our mission is ultimately to address the complex of health, housing, substance abuse, and economic needs of the gap population we serve.

2. Mission Statement and Financial Statement

Mission Statement: The mission of Dismas is to reconcile former prisoners to society, and society to former prisoners, through the development of a supportive community.

Financial Statement:

Annual Food Budget		
Revenue:	ABC Matthew 25 Fund	\$5,000.00
	Bank of America	\$5,000.00
Expenses:	Groceries:	\$10,000.00
BALANCE:		\$0.00

3. Specifically, how do you plan to use the requested funds?

One of the most significant financial expenses incurred annually by Dismas House is for the provision of food for our residents. Dismas House provides food for weekday breakfasts and lunches as well as all weekend meals for the 40 – 50 individuals that pass through our program each year. We aim to provide our residents with nutritious food that supports a balanced diet such as fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, cereals, juices, and canned goods. Food purchased by Dismas House is supplemented by the generosity of dozens of volunteer groups that donate their time cooking and joining our residents for weeknight dinners. Annually, these purchases total some \$10,000.00

4. How will the funds assist individuals battling poverty and its effects?

Dismas House is an organization that not only provides its residents with food, but also proverbially teaches them to fish as well. All residents of our program were both formerly incarcerated and homeless and the majority battle one of the major root causes of poverty: drug addiction. Dismas House breaks the destructive cycles of addiction and recidivism by providing the foundation individuals need to regain a sense of self-worth and pursue their goals, particularly by surrounding residents with a supportive community and a sober environment. Additionally, we assist our clients in solving civil legal troubles, finding employment, building a reliable work ethic, continuing their education, accessing critical physical and mental healthcare, and finding productive avenues for volunteerism. In this way, Dismas trains its residents to become productive community members that are eventually empowered to create their own success. The provision of a stable source of healthy food is a critical component of the foundation that allows this process to take place.

5. Total Cost of the Project

Each year, Dismas allocates approximately \$10,000 to provide food for residents of its programs.

6. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant

Dismas House is requesting \$5,000 from the Matthew 25 Grant Program to help offset these costs.

7. Your other funding source(s)

Dismas House additionally receives \$5,000 from the Bank of America Critical Needs Program.