

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.

The Rutba House Community

2016 Plan for Hospitality and Charitable Giving

Introduction. Started in August 2003, The Rutba House Community is a group of single people, married couples, and families living together in two Christian hospitality houses in the Walltown Neighborhood of Durham, NC. We are committed to sharing lives of discipleship, peacebuilding, and hospitality that we learn from Jesus and his disciples. We share a common weekly rhythm of prayers, meetings and meals. We share finances, cars, and other possessions. We also keep rooms open in our homes for people who need a place to stay. We have two dedicated long-term hospitality rooms and two short-term hospitality rooms within our community for individuals facing homelessness. We provide for all of the food and housing needs of our guests. We offer our guests phone and internet access as they work to build the lives that we believe God has envisioned for them. We accept men, women and children as guests. We do not focus our hospitality on any given category of person. We have had people come to us from prison, recovering from addiction, suffering from homelessness due to the economic downturn, experiencing medical crises, emancipated teens, and other people who for various reasons find themselves struggling to put together the basic needs for life. ***We are looking for partners to help us with the financial aspects of supporting our guests.***

We were grateful to receive the support of the Matthew 25 Grant in 2014. We hope you will again join us in our work, which is deeply informed by Jesus' words in Matthew 25.

Mission. The residents of Rutba House seek to live a common life of hospitality, peacebuilding, and discipleship in the way of Jesus. We open our homes and lives to friendship and mutual aid, believing that God comes to us as we welcome friends and strangers.

Request. ***We ask that the Matthew 25 Grant help us support the utility and living expenses of one guest for one year. That cost is \$3,750, all of which supports a person who is working to move out of poverty.*** We are committed to supporting our guests' transitions from Rutba House to stable and life-giving environments in which they are set up for success. We are able to offer our guests a season of life in which their daily needs are provided, freeing them to find work, recover from the pressures of instability, and envision and plan for God's future for them. Because all of the members of Rutba House are committed to living simply, we depend upon a broad community of support for our guests while they are with us. Your financial help would contribute to the strength of the social safety net we are able to offer in our homes for people who need a place to live.

Because the Rutba House is a Christian community in which members live alongside those in need, the community's budget includes non-charitable expenses like the basic needs of the members themselves. We only request financial help and partnership for hospitality and the charitable portions of our budget. Member contributions and charitable donations account for the balance of our budget as indicated below.

2016 Rutba House Budget

Hospitality & Charitable Giving	\$15,900
Non-Charitable Expenses	\$52,225
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Total Budget	\$68,125

Hospitality & Charitable Giving Budget

Expense Category	Est. Amount
Utility Expenses <i>(\$925 annually per guest for 2 long-term guests)</i>	\$1,850
Living Expenses <i>(\$2,825 annually per guest for 2 long-term guests)</i>	\$5,650
Community Meals <i>(\$40 per meal for 150 meals annually and \$100 for each of twelve monthly gatherings)</i>	\$7,200
Direct Aid	\$1,200
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Total Estimated Expenses	\$15,900

Note: Budget and expense reports can be provided upon request. Because Rutba House is not a non-profit organization, Watts Street Baptist Church is our fiscal agent.

Explanation of Expense Categories

Utility Expenses. Utility Expenses include electricity, gas, water, and communications (phone & internet).

Living Expenses. Living Expenses include groceries, programming & events, and the cost of running our community garden. Because our long-term guests are often coming to us with no job, housing, or access to food, we budget to provide for all of the food needs for our long term guests. We also run a community garden. The produce from that garden supplements our grocery budget, and the garden provides a space for community gatherings, prayer and meditation.

Community Meals. We host three Community Meals each week and monthly community gatherings. These meals feed members, long-term and short-term guests, local people interested in Christian community, and food-insecure neighbors and friends. We offer three meals per week for 50 weeks out of the year and twelve monthly community gatherings.

Direct Aid. We provide Direct Aid for friends and neighbors who need help with rent and utility bills. We have helped to buy books and school supplies for neighborhood children and long-term guests who are pursuing education. We sometimes offer matching grants to long-term guests who are saving for their lives after Rutba House.