

What is Self-Development of People?

Self-Development of People (SDOP) is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that affirms God's concern for humanity. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners, dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting, and enabling. We assist the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in carrying out its global commitment to work toward the self-development and empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people who own, control, and benefit directly from projects that promote long-term change in their lives and communities, and who seek to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice.



Who SDOP Funds

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People is prepared to establish partnerships with groups in the United States and other countries who

- are oppressed by poverty and social systems,
- want to take charge of their own lives,
- have organized or are organizing to do something about their own conditions,
- have decided that what they are going to do will produce long-term changes for their lives and communities, and
- will control the programs they own and will directly benefit from them.



Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People Investing in People

“We would like to thank the SDOP Committee for your continued support of Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships (SOAR). Without your support, we could not continue doing the work of empowering survivors of domestic violence to make changes in the systems that have oppressed them.”

*Zulma Garcia,
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

Criteria

The following standards are used to determine whether projects are valid for funding consideration within the ministry. A project will

- be presented, owned, and controlled by the group of economically poor people who will benefit directly from it;
 - address long-term correction of conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression;
 - describe, in detail
 - its goal (the point of the project),
 - its objectives (the specific steps the group will take to accomplish the goal),
 - the manner in which the direct beneficiaries will be involved in all stages of the project, and
 - the methods to be used to achieve the goal and objectives;
 - be sensitive to the environment while accomplishing its goal and objectives;
 - not advocate violence as a means of accomplishing its goal and objectives;
- describe fully the resources known to be available for its support, including a description of
 - resources within the community,
 - resources available to the community, and
 - in-kind and other financial resources sought or to be sought;
 - contain a balanced income-and-expenditure budget (a financial plan showing expected income and expenditures over the funding term of the project will be included); and
 - specify how progress toward the stated goal and objectives will be evaluated by the group and when the evaluation will be made.

Currently, annual grants from the National SDOP Committee are a maximum of \$15,000. Projects may also receive grants (usually less than \$10,000) from the SDOP Committee of the Presbytery and/or Synod in which the project is located.

A Dozen Things to Know

1. Applications are accepted year round at the national level. Mid councils (presbytery and synod SDOP committees) should be contacted directly. To find a mid council SDOP committee in your area, please call the national SDOP office:
English—800-728-7228 x5782
Spanish—800-728-7228 x5790.
2. Funding decisions at the national level are made in January, May, and September. However, note, that once an application is received, processing could take anywhere from three to six months.
3. While not required, groups may fill out pre-applications, for initial review and discussion with the national SDOP office, prior to completing the full version of the grant application.
4. A group may apply for funding by submitting an application at the mid council level (i.e., presbytery or synod), at the national level, or at all three (presbytery, synod, and national) levels simultaneously.
5. National-level applications may be obtained by calling the national office at 800-728-7228 x5782 or downloading from pcusa.org/apply-grant. Groups may also apply to a local (mid council) SDOP committee if there is one in their area. Some, but not all, mid council SDOP committees use the national application. Ask the mid council SDOP committee in your area about which application form it uses.
6. If you would like guidance and assistance as you work on your grant application, please contact the SDOP national office at 800-728-7228 x5782.
7. Self-Development of People seeks to partner with communities; therefore, it is unusual for a group of less than 10 people to receive funding.
8. SDOP funds youth-led projects only if the youth directly own and control the project. We do not fund children's projects, because the group members need to be old enough to directly own and control the project.
9. Generally, statewide organizations, faith-based groups, and umbrella organizations do not meet the SDOP criteria of being owned and controlled by the low-income people directly benefiting from the project.
10. SDOP does not require groups to have 501(c)(3) status, to be incorporated, or to be a nonprofit organization in order to submit a grant application.
11. SDOP does not fund private entrepreneurial businesses. SDOP is interested in partnering with cooperatives that will enhance community economic development. Groups will also need to meet SDOP's primary funding criteria.
12. While congregations and other organizing groups are encouraged to reach out to communities and provide help to groups as they develop projects, the projects must be presented, owned, and controlled by the groups who will benefit directly from them.



One Great Hour of Sharing

SDOP's primary source of income is approximately one-third of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), a special offering taken during Lent in Presbyterian congregations. The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance also receive a portion of the offering.

Community Workshops

Community workshops explaining the SDOP program are held in various regions of the country throughout the year. If your group would like information on an upcoming community workshop or assistance in arranging a workshop, please contact the SDOP national office at 800-728-7228 x5791.

SDOP in the United States



Following the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, some parts of New Orleans are still struggling to move forward. In particular, residents of eastern New Orleans are still dealing with inadequately resourced schools, nonfunctioning public libraries, and too few jobs. Transportation is limited, and residents need the Internet to keep connected and informed. Although the spirits of community residents have been weakened, they have not been broken.

In 2011, approximately 100–200 area residents gathered to discuss priorities for their community and decided a community center was a top priority. They elected an 11-member board to initiate plans for the center. In early 2012, SDOP partnered with the group by awarding it a \$20,000 grant. Today the project consists of a community center centrally located from the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Wards and the Gentilly neighborhood. The center offers computer training, job-skills training, mentoring among peers, job searches, and access to resources. As a result of Internet access and job training at the center, new opportunities have opened up for the community residents. For some residents, merely learning how to operate a computer is a major step forward and allows them to fully participate in society.

Subscribe to the SDOP channel on YouTube
[youtube.com/user/selfdevelopment/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/selfdevelopment/videos)

Join the Self-Development of People group on Facebook
[facebook.com/groups/selfdevelopmentSDOP](https://www.facebook.com/groups/selfdevelopmentSDOP)

SDOP in Belize

Struggling to earn a living in Punta Gorda, Belize, members of the Rio Grande Fishermen Cooperative discovered that sea cucumbers are the answer! The small, snake-like fish are plentiful in Belize's coastal waters and are easy to catch. Not eaten by the people of Belize, sea cucumbers are in high demand in parts of China, where they are a popular food. Members of the cooperative decided to begin harvesting sea cucumbers for export.



The members of the Rio Grande Fishermen Cooperative quickly ran into two problems with their plan to sell sea cucumbers to China. They needed additional space in their small production facility to process their catch as well as more freezers to store the processed sea cucumbers until they had enough for a full shipment. Financially, those two requirements cost more than the group could afford. What could they do?

The cooperative applied to SDOP for a grant. SDOP agreed to help the cooperative, enabling the Belizeans to expand their facilities and to buy additional freezers. Cooperative members are now regularly shipping sea cucumbers to China, and their economic situation has greatly improved!



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Self-Development of People
 100 Witherspoon Street
 Louisville, KY 40202-1396



“Motive matters. Foundation is crucial. The ministry of SDOP is driven, not so much by who the recipients are but by who we are—faithful and generous followers of Jesus. Our identity is to follow the lead of Jesus, who looks upon everyone as a valued child of God, worthy of God's good gift of life abundant. Such is our foundation and motive.”

Rev. Joseph Johnson
 Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Dothan, Alabama

Visit SDOP Website: pcusa.org/sdop

English - 800-728-7228 x5782
 Spanish - 800-728-7228 x5790



PDS 25422-14-001

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People People Investing in People

