

# Out of work?

Oppressed by the economy

Ready for a change



**Grants for low-income community groups**



PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE  
**Self-Development  
of People**

**If you have all lost your jobs...  
if you all endure poverty or  
homelessness... if you all feel  
judged for past mistakes...  
or if you all struggle as  
newcomers to this country,  
don't give up hope!**



**We're the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and we want to help.**

We proudly follow the example of Jesus, who made friends with the poor, gave them the dignity every human being deserves, helped them get back on their feet and make a fresh start at a better life—and taught those who follow him to help others exactly the same way.

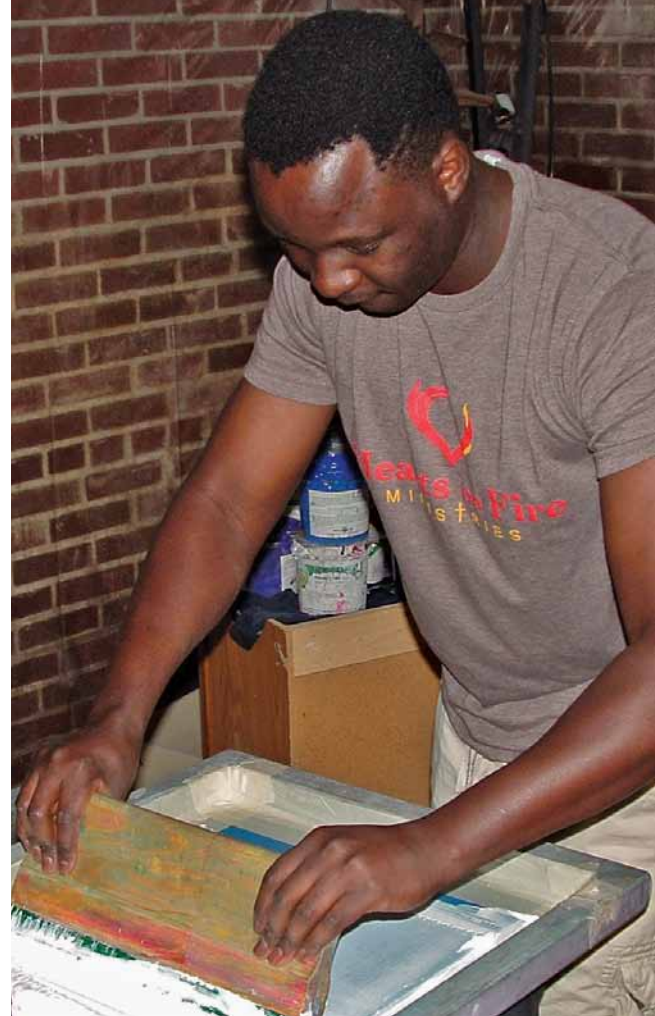
Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

*-Luke 4:18-19*

## Can you . . .

cook, sew, garden,  
farm, paint, act,  
sing, mow, make  
repairs, build things,  
teach, babysit, sell,  
bake, write, use a  
computer, drive,  
knit, do carpentry?

Do you know at  
least ten other  
people in the same  
situation with  
similar skills?



**If so**, you can apply as a group for a grant from the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People—and start a better life for yourselves and your community.



### **We're Not a Charity**

Self-Development of People is a different kind of ministry. We don't give handouts for emergencies or crises. We don't make loans or give scholarships to individuals. Instead, through our grant program we build partnerships and invest in small groups of people who are fighting poverty, want to take charge of their own lives, and come together with an idea and a plan to build a better life for themselves and their community.

While we are a ministry of and funded by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), you don't have to be Presbyterian to be considered for a grant.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Self-Development of People  
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### What Kinds of Projects Are Funded?

There's really no limit to the types of groups or projects that are eligible for grants as long as the group members are economically poor and have a good plan to bring about real long-term change for themselves and their community. If your group is trying to come up with an idea, start by thinking about the experiences in the group, the people you all know, and the things that you all enjoy doing. The best programs will grow out of the group members' own passions.

For example, we helped fifteen women in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who were out of work. They put their heads together and decided they didn't have a lot of "marketable" skills (so they thought!) but they loved to sew. The group formed a cooperative called "La Comunidad en Progreso," applied for a \$20,000 grant to buy several sewing machines, supplies, and professional training. Then they made school uniforms that they sell to their local school district as a way to support themselves.

A group of men in Dayton, Ohio, couldn't find work because of the poor job market—and their prison records. No bank would lend to them, but they loved the outdoors and were confident they could start and run a lawn care business . . . and we agreed. They formed a business cooperative called "818 Yard Patrol," and we gave them a \$20,000 grant to buy equipment and a start toward self-employment.

We're blessed to have hundreds of success stories like these—ordinary people with extraordinary commitment who are willing to accept our help and take steps to really change their lives.

### Criteria for Grants

To be considered for Self-Development of People funding, you must organize into a group (typically ten or more people) and propose a project that meets these five criteria:

- 1** The group requesting the grant plans to own and run the business or project and will benefit directly from it.
- 2** The proposed project is intended to correct long-term conditions that bind people by poverty and oppression.
- 3** The group can describe in detail a viable project plan, including goals, specific steps and tactics to reach those goals, and an explanation of how group members will be involved in doing the work and benefiting from the project. It must also include a proposed budget showing projected income and expenses, and a statement showing the size of the requested grant and how the group proposes to use those funds.
- 4** Your group must show that the proposed plan is sensitive to the environment.
- 5** The group must affirm that it will not advocate violence as a means to accomplish its goals and objectives.

### More about Grants and How to Apply

We are currently considering grants of up to \$20,000. Funding decisions are made each January, May, and September. There are no deadlines.

Take the first step to help yourselves today. To learn more about the Self-Development of People grant program, to read about projects that we have funded in the past, or to download an application or pre-application form, visit our website at [www.pcusa.org/sdop](http://www.pcusa.org/sdop) or call our office at (800) 728-7228, ext. 5782 (English) or ext. 5790 (Spanish).



## Self-Development of People Success Stories

### Your group can be next!



**Business services**—A group of Georgia residents obtained a \$20,000 grant to start a small appliance and vehicle fix-it shop; Bhutanese refugees in Georgia had trouble finding work because they didn't speak English, so their group used a \$20,000 grant to open their own painting business to support themselves and their families.

**Food**—A group of women in Georgia used a \$25,000 grant to further develop their business of processing locally grown pecans from which they made and sold candy; a group in Los Angeles used a \$20,000 grant



to start a cooperative bakery to earn a living and offer community residents healthy bakery products made of natural ingredients; a group of Appalachian workers in rural Kentucky obtained a \$35,000 grant to run a fully equipped kitchen, thereby increasing their ability to make and sell homemade goods; fourteen low-income immigrant Hispanic women

in New Mexico used a \$15,000 grant to equip a commercial kitchen, enabling them to increase their catering business and provide meals for a child-care center; a small community cooperative in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was awarded a \$20,000 grant to support themselves and serve the community by running a community garden and coffee shop, which also serves as a center to teach healthy cooking, home repair, financial management, and parenting classes.



**Shirts and T-shirts**—A group of East African university students in Georgia used a \$20,000 grant to enhance their screen-printing enterprise that produces college and school club shirts; a group of disabled women in Mississippi formed a cooperative, obtained a \$20,000 grant, and now support themselves by making and selling custom-designed T-shirts.

**Arts, crafts, performing arts**—A group of Native American basket makers in Maine used a \$25,000 grant to develop a year-round market to sell their baskets, teach the craft to younger people, and help the basket makers earn a living wage; a group of people recovering from mental illness in New Mexico used a \$20,000 grant to begin an enterprise to support

themselves with jewelry making, woodworking, and other arts; a community theater group of low-income members in Massachusetts obtained a \$10,000 grant to create, produce, and perform in original plays on stage and on TV to help audiences deal with such community problems as domestic violence, incarceration, and alcohol/drug abuse; Native-American artists in Chicago used a \$20,000 grant to create an artist registry, sell their art, and stage performances to promote their indigenous culture and earn a livelihood for their members.

**Farming and gardening**—A group of Sudanese refugees in Tennessee obtained a \$20,000 grant to develop two acres of their church's land into a community garden to help feed their families and generate income from selling produce; another group in inner-city Detroit formed a cooperative and used a \$15,000 grant to grow and sell food on vacant city lots; 25 low-income African American farmers in South Carolina began a successful greenhouse business with a \$20,000 grant; a group of Latino residents in Idaho used a \$19,000 grant to start a *mercado* (marketplace).

