



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

SDOP is

- about human dignity, self-reliance and community growth.
- a partner in long-term solutions.
- about the empowerment of people

SDOP is not

- a crisis fund for emergency situations.
- a provider of funds to social service agencies.
- a provider of scholarships.
- a financial institution for personal loans or grants.
- a charity.

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.

Jesus says:

“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 recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Luke 4:18–19

Jesus of Nazareth befriended and assisted poor and oppressed people, and taught his followers the same primary responsibility. By establishing the Self-Development of People (since 1970), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) lives out the primary responsibility taught by Jesus and demonstrates its solidarity with poor people around the world.

Mission Statement:

The Self-Development of People is a ministry that affirms God’s concern for humankind. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners, dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting, and enabling. We participate in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice.

Who Should Apply:

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

- are oppressed by poverty or 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 or communities,
- will control the programs they own and will directly benefit from them.

Our Mandate:

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People shall assist the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in carrying out its global commitment to work toward the self-development 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. The mandate was established by the 182nd General Assembly (1970) of the former United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and reaffirmed and approved by the 199th General Assembly (1987) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

One Great Hour of Sharing:

Self-Development of People’s primary source of income is approximately one-third of the One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering taken during Lent in Presbyterian congregations. The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are the other programs receiving a portion of the offering.

Resources:

A list of SDOP resources is on our web site. To order these resources, please call the Presbyterian Distribution Center at 1.800.524.2612



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Criteria for Funding

The following standards are used to determine whether a project is valid for funding consideration within the ministry; a project will:

- be presented, owned and controlled by the group of 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 way 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 a) those within the community, b) those available to the community and c) the 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.
- specify how progress toward the stated goal and objectives will be evaluated by the group, and when the evaluation will be made.

Size of Grants

Currently, annual grants from the National SDOP Committee are no more than \$20,000. 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.

Where and How to Apply

Projects can apply for funding to Self-Development of People Committees at the Presbytery, Synod and/or National (General Assembly) levels. In the Presbyterian system, a Presbytery consists of all the Presbyterian congregations in a geographic area, and a Synod consists of all the Presbyteries in a geographical area. All the Presbyteries and Synods in the United States are part of the national level.

To apply at the national level, complete the SDOP application available on our web site; there are no application deadlines at the national level. To apply at the Presbytery or Synod level, contact the Presbytery or Synod SDOP Committee to determine their application process. Call the SDOP National Office to learn:

- The name of the Presbytery and/or Synod that you are located in.
- Whether or not they have a SDOP Committee; not all Presbyteries/Synods do.
- How to contact them directly to get their application deadlines, if any.

For further information about applications call toll free 1.888.728.7228

United States: Extension 5782

International (English and Spanish): Extension 5790



National Office

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Toll Free Telephone: 888.728.7228 ext. 5782
Fax: 502.569.8963
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