



DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

SEEDS OF HOPE

2026 GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT AND APPLICATION

PURPOSE: “SEEDS OF HOPE” funding for outreach/social justice projects that relate to the Five Marks of Mission is available for 2026.

The Five Marks of Mission are an important statement on mission which expresses the Anglican Communion’s common commitment to an understanding of God’s holistic/integral mission. The first mark of mission is really a summary of what all mission is about, because it is based on Jesus’ own summary of his mission. Instead of being just one of five distinct activities, it should be the key statement about everything we do in mission.

[The Five Marks of Mission:](#)

- Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- Teach, baptize and nurture new believers;
- Respond to human need by loving service;
- Transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;
- Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

This “seed” money is to serve as a catalyst for congregations either to:

1. Develop new programs that reflect the Five Marks of Mission with an emphasis on Social Justice Ministry or
2. Add a new dimension to an existing program (details of such expansion must be provided).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: All congregations in the Diocese of Southern Virginia and diocesan-affiliated groups. Per Diocesan Canon VII.4(f) congregations will not be eligible for grants from the Diocese until the preceding two calendar years’ audit reports have been provided to the Diocese.

GRANT AMOUNTS: Awards may be as much as \$6,000. All grants are for one year.

AWARD CRITERIA: Applications will be evaluated on these criteria:

1. Enables the congregation (or diocesan group) to expand their mission activities as framed by the Five Marks of Mission with an emphasis on Social Justice Ministry.
2. The grant is to be used as “seed money” to mobilize other resources (people or supplemental funding).
3. Includes the potential for ongoing projects to be self-sustaining beyond the grant period.
4. Includes the number of people who will be reached.
5. Includes collaboration between congregations, diocesan-affiliated groups, etc. (for example: convocation-based programs).

6. Preference will be given to groups who have not previously received Seeds of Hope grants.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: The grant must be used by **November 15, 2027**. Recipients must also submit a report, with pictures, if available, **before applying for any subsequent grant**, but no later than **December 15, 2027**, describing how the funds were allocated and the results of the project.

Applications may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to:

Seeds of Hope Grant Application
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia
11832 Rock Landing Dr, Suite 100
Newport News, VA 23606-4231

Fax: 757-595-0783
Email: sallen@diosova.org

Applications must be received no later than **September 30, 2026**.

Awards will be announced and distributed no later than **December 10, 2026**.

2026 SEEDS OF HOPE GRANT APPLICATION

Feel free to continue answers on a separate sheet.

TITLE of project or program: _____

NAME of the applying congregation/diocesan group: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NAME of the clergy if applicant is a congregation: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

CONTACT PERSON'S TELEPHONE: _____

CONTACT PERSON'S EMAIL: _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – provide a brief SUMMARY of the project:

LOCATION where project will be implemented:

New Project? _____ Expansion of Existing Project? _____

Start Date: _____ Amount requested: _____

How will these funds be used (be specific; attach an itemized list of projected expenses)?

Describe how this project implements the mission of your congregation or group.

How will the grant expand the outreach mission of the congregation or group?

How does this project fit within the Five Marks of Mission?

How will the program be financed after the grant is spent?

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSAL AUTHOR: _____

SIGNATURE OF EXECUTIVE: _____
(Clergy / Warden / Chairperson)

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