

The 2026 Community Harvest Microgrant: Helping Neighbors Feed Neighbors

Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey (ECS-NJ) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2026 Community Harvest Microgrant to help support the continued growth of congregational feeding ministries. Grant applications are open now through April 24. Please see below for grant guidelines.



Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey Community Harvest Microgrant

Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey (ECS-NJ) is dedicated to meeting the diverse human needs served by congregations across the Diocese. Equally important, ECS-NJ serves as a vehicle to unite the people of the Diocese in promoting gospel justice and effective, impactful advocacy aimed at addressing both the root cause and symptoms of systemic injustice.

Our grants are designed to strengthen and expand existing ministries of compassion and justice while making new ones possible. As part of our ongoing commitment to support underserved communities, ECS-NJ is providing targeted microgrants to help strengthen hunger-relief efforts across the Diocese.

1. Purpose of the Community Harvest Microgrant

To combat rising food insecurity across New Jersey, ECS-NJ is offering Community Harvest microgrants to congregations and ministries currently serving vulnerable populations facing hunger. ECS-NJ seeks to respond to this essential human need by helping to empower congregations to strengthen, expand, modify, and/or improve existing food relief efforts for vulnerable individuals and families.

The Community Harvest grant aligns with the ECS-NJ scriptural focus for 2026: “*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat*” Matthew 25:35a

2. Eligibility

The Community Harvest Microgrant is open to all congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey that

- Demonstrate the capacity to implement the proposed project and sustain its impact
- Directly serve vulnerable populations facing issues of food insecurity
- Have the need to increase *currently existing* food ministries or create additional services to *existing* congregational programs

Eligibility for services provided by the program cannot be determined by church membership, faith, or participation in church activities.

3. Applications

Grant applicants are required to submit a brief report (e.g., 1500 words) that includes the following components

- **Organizational information** including the names and contact details (phone and email) for *all* project leads and clergy to help facilitate communication with the ECS Grant Committee
- **Statement of Need** - A clear description of the specific community food insecurity issue being addressed, including gaps in service, target population details, and service metrics (e.g., what is the problem, who and how many are affected, and why does it matter)
- **Project Description**
- **Itemized Budget** detailing requested funding, estimated cost of the project, and breakdown of spending. Please note: funding is strictly limited to programmatic activities; administrative costs are *not* eligible.
- **Expected Community Impact**

Applicants may be contacted by phone or in person by a member of the ECS-NJ Grant Committee to discuss the project.

Grant proposals may be submitted in English, Spanish, or Haitian Creole. Applications received in languages other than English will be translated into English for review. These translations will be evaluated for accuracy and completeness before being sent to the grant committee.

Successful applicants will have 6 (six) months to complete the project and submit a brief report to ECS detailing the accomplishments of the grant

4. Application Process

Applications are due on or before **Friday April 24, 2026**.

Applications will be reviewed and recommended for funding by members of the ECS-NJ Grant Committee with the approval of Advisory Council.

Funding is limited and is a one-time grant award. Final grant allocations are contingent upon the total number of approved applicants, with equal funding distributed to each recipient. ECS-Nj reserves the right to reduce any funding request depending on the number of applications.

Grant awards will be announced in June 2026.

For more information and/or to submit a proposal for the **Community Harvest Microgrant**, please email grant@ecs-nj.org or contact the Rev. Tammy Young + at revtammyyoung@gmail.com