Introduction
The hope of this committee formed by the 2016 Great Plains Annual Conference and under the guidance of the Mercy and Justice Team is to provide seed money to initiate sustainable and relationship based programs that addresses poverty. Ideal programs will form relationships between people who identify as United Methodist with the community it is called to serve. While Circles, Networx, and Bridges Out of Poverty training have been suggested as models, you are not limited to initiating these programs with this grant money. We do encourage you to find one of these programs or a program like it that is nearest to you, to visit them on site or acquire from them advice on what works well in your community to initiate and sustain a program built on relationships. Programs that are both individually and institutionally cooperative and relational in nature will receive first priority as we feel these most effectively create the kind of change we hope to see in communities.

Because of the onerous tasks associated with administering a reimbursement grant and the challenges it presents to applicants, the committee unanimously agreed to offer grant distributions prior to an applicant incurring expenses. We feel this will make it easier for people on the ground floor of developing a program who do not currently have major donors or investors. Therefore, we will operate like a traditional grant where the applicant states the need for the grant, the poverty alleviation grant task force will determine if those stated needs meet the objectives of the grant and administer grant money appropriately, then the applicant will report how the money met those objectives.

Applicants may request up to $6,000 to be distributed over three years with allocations each January. The first year funding cap is $4000 and the remaining eligible funds may be distributed over the next 2 years in amounts requested by the applicant. You may also apply for $0 in your first year with explanation of your intent and strategies to initiate a desired program in 2018. Note, applicants with intent to initiate a program and incur expenses in 2017 will receive first priority. Receipts and reports will be requested on April 1 and October 1 2017.

While $6000 over three years won’t create a robust program by itself, we believe it can be a catalyst to securing resources necessary to continue to grow an effective poverty alleviation program that transforms your community. If this mechanism to initiate relationship based programs is found to be successful, a budgeted line item may be created or a further allocation from the Great Plains Annual Conference may be requested.

The poverty alleviation grant task force is comprised of the following individuals appointed by the Great Plains Mercy and Justice team. Each of us is available for questions and clarifications:

- Debora Cox (Lay person-Salina, KS) dcox1119@gmail.com
- Mark Crist (Clergy-Wahoo, NE) mcrist@greatplainsumc.org
- Sue Dondlinger (Lay person-Wichita) dondlingersue@gmail.com
- Ruth Kruse (Retired Diaconal-Omaha, NE) ruthkruse@cox.net
- Aubrey Mancuso (Lay person-Omaha, NE) amancuso@voicesforchildren.com
- Patrick McLaughlin (Clergy-Kansas City) patrick.mclaughlin@cor.org
- Ken Sokol (Lay person-Kansas City) kensokol@yahoo.com
Great Plains Annual Conference
2016 Poverty Alleviation Initiative

Application Instructions

Please answer each of the following questions. Each answer should be 500 words or less plus supporting documentation where requested. The desired format is typed, double-spaced, in 12pt font in a word compatible or pdf document.

Signed and completed applications should be postmarked by Nov 30, 2016

to the Great Plains Conference Mercy and Justice Coordinator Rev. Kalaba Chali via one of the following:

Fax: 316-684-0044
Email: kchali@greatplainsumc.org
Postal Service: Rev. Kalaba Chali
9440 E Boston
Wichita, KS 67207

Primary Applicant
Primary supporting organization
Primary Physical Address
Phone Email
Community of implementation:

Request Amount per year 2017: _____ 2018: ______ 2019: ______

1. Briefly describe the relationally based program you would initiate with a grant from the Great Plains Annual Conference.
2. What are the known indicators of poverty in the community you wish to serve? (Please attach any supporting documents to strengthen your application)
3. What agencies (including yourself) and what assets are already committed to be a part of a coalition that implements this initiative? Is there a United Methodist entity involved? How do you intend to use these to fundraise and recruit participants and volunteers?
4. What specifically would the funds you are requesting go to support?
5. What are the quantitative and qualitative outcomes you expect among individuals, your church, and the community as a result of your initiative? How will you measure this change? (Include a description of your quantitative and qualitative data collection system.)
6. Over the next 1-3 years (depending on the length of funding plan you request), what are your plans to transition from Great Plains Annual Conference financial support to being fully supported by the community you intend to serve? Please provide a proposed budget with indication of where this grant will be put to use.

Please sign the application to indicate your understanding of this grant’s intentions and willingness to submit a bi-annual report on the impact of this grant for your initiative.

Sign________________________________________ Date__________________

Print Name________________________________________

__________________________________________________

1 Primary applicant/Organization will be who receives funds
2 See Attached suggestions for measurable outcomes
3 See attached sample budget
Great Plains Annual Conference
2016 Poverty Alleviation Initiative

General Guidelines for Grant Money Distribution

- Grant allocation will occur annually during the first business week of January.
- Zero dollars may be requested in year one by an applicant with a vision for initiating a program in years 2 and 3 of this funding opportunity. Applicants prepared to initiate programs in 2017 will receive first priority.
- 2016 applications for 2017 funding are due November 30, 2016. No Exceptions.
- The first report of outcomes and receipts is due April 1 so that we can make a case for allocating budgeted funds to future grant programs with similar purpose.
- To receive the remaining balance of granted funds in 2018-2019, copies of receipts showing expenses covered with the 2017 allocation and a report of outcomes must be submitted by October 1st 2017.
- Use of this grant for unanticipated expenses will require approval from the Great Plains Mercy and Justice Poverty Alleviation Grant Task Force and an amended budget that reflects these expenses.
- Funding will be made to the Primary Applicant/organization. Changes in this are possible in consultation with the Mercy and Justice Poverty Alleviation Grant Task Force.

Suggestions of eligible expenses (all for the direct benefit of program participants living in poverty):

- Child care
- Meals
- Training
- Transportation
- Workbooks
- Other Program Supplies

Suggestions for Measurable Outcomes

- **Community members living in poverty**: strengthened social capital, strengthened family, improved financial stability, improved resources, improved knowledge and improved skills.

- **Community members not living in poverty**: strengthened social capital, increased awareness and positive attitudes associated with those in poverty, improved confidence in capacity to offer appropriate help.

- **Volunteers from other organizations, groups**: increased awareness and positive attitudes associated with those in poverty, improved confidence in capacity to offer appropriate help.

- **Children**: increased understanding and demonstration of appropriate social interactions and character. (Aligned with local school expectations of social skills and citizenships, and Six Pillars of Character as outlined by https://charactercounts.org, increased hardiness and resilience.)

- **Youth**: increased understanding and demonstration of appropriate social interactions and character. (Aligned with local school expectations of social skills and citizenships, and Six Pillars of Character as outlined by https://charactercounts.org, increased hardiness and resilience.)

- **Community**: increased investments in program and increased awareness and actions to reduce poverty.
## Sample Budget for
Getting Ahead while Getting Out
Investigations into Economic Class in America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Item</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Getting Out Workbooks   | $214    | Workbook $19.50, 10 or more $16.50  
16.50 x 12 = $198, shipping 8% = $15.84 total $213.84 ($214)                                                                 |
| Investigations workbook | $333    | Workbook $32.50, 10 or more $27.75  
27.75 x 12 = $333.00                                                                                                      |
| Facilitator             | Local decision | Facilitators for Getting Out are often volunteers so the cost can be zero. Some facilitators are employees and faculty. Some sites pay facilitators; recommend that facilitators be paid locally determined self-sufficient wages. GA sessions are 2.5 to 3.0 hours. 16 sessions x 3 = 48 hours. Facilitators spend considerable time recruiting, doing orientation, preparation for each session, and data management. Facilitators may put as much time into these activities as they do into facilitating. |
| Supplies                | Local decision | Necessary supplies: flip chart paper, plain paper, manila folders for each investigator, pens and a big supply of markers. Optional supplies: calendars, inexpensive calculators, extra art supplies |
| Meeting space Transportation Childcare | Local decision | No cost                                                                                                                                     |
| Food                    | Local decision | Optional. Correctional facilities often provide food; with permission some food has been brought in by facilitators. Cost covered by partnering organizations or donations.  
Optional. On campus food may be provided if budgets and time allow. |

### One time and administrative costs

GA Facilitator Training: two three-hour online sessions.  
$299  
Onsite facilitator training also available.  
Onsite and online facilitator training includes the cost of the Getting Out workbook and Users Guide and the Investigations workbook and Facilitator Notes for each facilitator.