Burgess Urban Fund Grant Information

About Episcopal City Mission (ECM)

OUR MISSION
ECM builds relationships and collective power for racial and economic justice. We do this by developing, convening, mobilizing, and funding prophetic leaders in Episcopal communities grassroots organizations and faith-rooted organizations.

OUR HISTORY - A BRIEF GLIMPSE
Episcopal City Mission (ECM) was incorporated in 1844. Initially it focused on establishing mission churches in the Boston area to support the needs of the poor including - sailors, the sick, the elderly, the imprisoned, and the homeless. In the 1970s, in response to the urban crisis facing Boston, ECM shifted away from charity, instead supporting communities to advocate for their needs and find solutions to their own problems. The Burgess Urban Fund, originally the Joint Urban Fund, embodied this shift - its first grantee being the Tent City Movement in 1981.

OUR VISION
ECM envisions whole, just, and equitable communities across Massachusetts:

- Where all are welcome and are able to live purposeful and healthy lives regardless of their zip code.
- Where all people have access to opportunities to participate in the shaping of their communities through voice and vote and where the leadership in our public and private institutions reflects the diversity of our commonwealth.
- Where the soul of the commonwealth is expressed through practices, policies, and networks that place working class and poor families at the center and serve the public good.
- Where families remain intact and stable and are not displaced by housing, immigration, and criminal justice policy and practice
- Where social justice movements and are transformative for the leaders and networks and their creativity and potential is cultivated and unleashed.
- Where Christian communities and grassroots organizations are dedicated to the spiritual wellbeing and collective power of all, particularly those who have been historically marginalized.

OUR STRATEGIC ROLE
Developing Prophetic Leaders: Form prophetic leaders with the understand and skills needed to do justice.

*We thank Haymarket People’s Fund whose guidelines served as a template for this document.*
Convening: Foster right-relationship by catalyzing communities of faith-rooted and grassroots leaders.

Mobilizing: Organize faith-rooted individuals and communities to act towards a more whole, just, and equitable Massachusetts.

Funding: Invest financial resources in Episcopal communities, grassroots and faith-rooted leaders and organizations who are doing justice work.

**Burgess Urban Fund Grant Making Guidelines**
The Burgess Urban Fund (BUF), a grant program of the Episcopal City Mission, supports grassroots community organizing in response to social injustice in Massachusetts.

BUF understands community organizing as a process that develops the power and capacity within a community to improve members’ lives. Strong organizing work includes:

- Engaging members of the community in identifying shared concerns and setting goals for social change
- Developing new leaders, especially among those affected by inequality, and including them in the leadership of a movement
- Undertaking projects and campaigns that are likely to shift the inequitable relationships and unjust distribution of power in our society.
- Articulating both the immediate and root causes of the problem.
- Collaborating with other regional or statewide organizations/initiatives

The Burgess Urban Fund supports organizations that are working for social justice in the areas of racial, economic & immigrant justice – including but not limited to affordable housing/tenant rights, immigration rights/reform, criminal justice reform, and youth organizing - in Massachusetts.

BUF focuses its funding to support small grassroots organizations and movements, with budgets no more than $500,000. Grants are awarded up to $20,000 per year for up to 5 consecutive years, with re-application each year. At the end of 5 consecutive years the organization must take a year off from being funded.

**Funding Criteria**
We evaluate all applications for funding according to the following criteria:

1. **Track record of successful campaign(s)** - Does the organization provides evidence of far reaching success in campaigns?
2. **Effective Coalition Building/Builder** - Does the proposal provides evidence of a strategic plan & demonstrated success at effective, long-term, institutionalized collaboration across organizations
3. **Building power through membership/Participatory decision making and governance** - Does the proposal demonstrates success and evidence of strong
leadership engagement, development of members and just decision-making policies?

4. **Culture of Ongoing Organizational Learning** - Does the proposal provides strong examples and evidence of organizational learning and development?

**What We Do Not Fund**

1. Groups primarily providing direct services that focus on meeting people’s basic needs or that focus primarily on individual empowerment or self-help. Social service groups can apply for a project-specific organizing grant if it fits Burgess’s criteria.
2. Publications, reports, workshops, classes, conferences, media events, arts or theater productions unless they are part of an ongoing community organizing effort or are accountable to social change movements.
3. Groups based outside of Massachusetts or work focused outside of MA.
4. Legal or research expenses unless they are part of an overall organizing strategy.
5. Capital campaigns or endowment drives.
6. Individuals or individual projects (such as graduate research, fellowships or scholarships)
7. Projects sponsored by a government agency. For example, Burgess would not fund a project led by a school district. We would, however, consider funding a project led by parents and students working to hold a school accountable for inequitable treatment of children of color.
8. Organizations with budgets over $500,000.
9. Other foundations.
10. IRS regulations prohibit us from funding the following:
   a. Electoral work that promotes specific candidates.
   b. Union organizing work, unless it is a campaign involving and benefitting the wider community (including non-union members).
   c. Civil disobedience or other actions that involve breaking the law.

**How to Apply for a Grant**

1. Read through this packet carefully, and evaluate whether the project or work for which you are requesting funds fits our goals.
2. Organizations seeking to apply to Burgess for the first time must have a screening call with Neha Rayamajhi before June 30th in order to be considered for the September deadline.
3. All groups that have been funded in the last year are eligible to apply and will be emailed an application. If you have not received an application by mid-July, please call or email to request a copy.
4. Once received, please complete the application and submit required attachments. Grant requests of up to $20,000 will be considered.
5. BUF Applications must be received by midnight the 4th Thursday of September. Applications must be submitted digitally, either through our application portal
(linked on website) or via email. Mailed applications must be arranged in advance of the deadline. Late applications will not be considered.

**ECM Definitions**

**Constituency** – Those people most impacted by your work

**Equity** - Giving everyone access to what they need to learn and thrive. This means providing additional resources to those who need more, often to rectify the fact that they have been under resourced in the past.

**Inner Work/Spiritual Practice** - Personal and communal practices and rituals that allow us to -
- **Root** - Center the relationships, beliefs, traditions, and experiences that have shaped us
- **Reflect** - Think about the big questions that really matter and tend to get overlooked in the hustle of everyday life.
- **Relate** - Interact with other people in ways that allow us to deeply appreciate each other's uniqueness and feel a deep sense of connection.

**Leadership Development** - Strengthen the skills and experience of constituency in all aspects of work. We believe that organizers need to be intentionally and systematically developed within local communities and organizations.

**Learning Organization** - An organization that supports the learning of its members and is continuously transforming itself. Learning organizations make time to ask big questions and understand their failures in order to continuously learn and grow.

**Movement Building** – Building relationships and doing collective work with other social justice groups working on issues both similar and different from theirs.

**Organizing** - Efforts led by those most affected by injustice that focus on the root causes of problems and work to change the power structures that maintain injustice

**Participatory Membership & Governance** – Community members have real leadership and voice in all aspects of the organizations that represent them.

**Right Relationship** - When beings have a profound respect for the uniqueness of the other and a deep desire and sense of responsibility to live equitably together.

**Root Cause** – Underlying factors or failures which lead to negative symptoms.

**Systemic Change** – Working to change culture, institutions and/or structures of power in communities and the broader society.