



Communities in Action

American Baptist Churches of New Jersey

2025-2026 Grant Application

*This year, the ABCNJ
Communities in Action grant
will focus on “Embracing
Community” and showing love
to immigrant families.*

“Embracing Community” will assist our congregations and leaders create a welcoming and supportive environment for immigrant families through a multifaceted approach. This grant aims to equip churches with essential resources that address the unique challenges immigrant families face.

Applicants are encouraged to propose programs that encourage congregations to establish new partnerships with local organizations, businesses, healthcare providers, educators, and legal advisors who support immigrant families. Additionally, we urge congregations to work together with local schools to ensure that the children of immigrant families receive the necessary academic and emotional support to flourish in their new environment.

We are excited to see the innovative and impactful ways you will engage with doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with the immigrant families in your community. Your unique perspective and ideas can help us profoundly impact immigrant families by providing an opportunity to thrive, not just survive.

Proposed Ministry Name: _____

Church Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Pastor/Leader: _____

Additional contact name/information: _____

Is the church in covenant with ABCNJ? (see <https://www.abcnj.net/our-covenant-congregations-and-region>) Yes or No (Circle one)

{Please note: Churches not in covenant with the region will not be considered for grants.}

Amount Requested: (Maximum - \$3,000)_____

Signature: _____ Date _____

Application Deadline - July 8, 2025

Applications should be sent to:

American Baptist Churches of New Jersey

170 Elm St

Westfield, NJ 07090

Attention: Communities in Action

or emailed to the Executive Minister and Senior Regional Pastor at mmendez@abcnj.net

[Note: These grants are made possible because of specific gifts to the region. ABCNJ will award amounts based on how many requests are approved. Each project may receive less than requested.]

Application will be reviewed by the Communities in Action Team

Deadline for Submission - July 8, 2025

Recipients will be presented at the ABCNJ Annual Session - October 4, 2025

Communities in Action is a collaboration between our current New Church Development and Public Mission Committees. This collaboration aspires to facilitate Christian leaders in navigating the present post-Christian, pluralistic society where injustice and inequity continue to pervade, and to support one another in discovering ways to respond with love and courage in their communities. In addition, our collaboration seeks to inspire, empower, and support congregations and/or faith groups in their work towards justice and human rights, with the purpose of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and being peacemakers in our world.

1. How does the proposed ministry align with the overall narrative of Communities in Action? (100-200 words)

2. How does your proposal contribute to supporting, nurturing, and providing resources to multigenerational immigrant families in your community? Explain some practical ways you can implement it. (150-200 words)

3. How will you evaluate the success of your project? What will be different for you and the immigrant families you serve in the community? (150-200 words)

4. Who are the people involved in “Embracing Community showing love to immigrant families? (100-150 words) *The description must show that over 50% of the persons involved will be from outside the church (those who are not yet part of the church family).*

5. What are the primary goals and objectives for your project? (Consider SMART: Goals **should** be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.) (200-300 words)

6. Please submit a budget for how requested funds will be used. **Please note: funds should not be used for any administrative costs or facility improvement.**

Additional Grant Requirements

- Provide a summary statement about the aims of the ministry. This description will be shared on the website and at the Annual Session should you be selected.
- *Grant recipients must submit a 6-month progress report.* You can share through pictures, videos, and/or written summaries.
- Grant recipients must participate in a one-time gathering to share their Communities in Action journey with other 2025-2026 grant recipients. Date to be determined.