

The Macauley Grant Program

Administered by: Saint John's Church, Lafayette Square

Grant Range: \$50,000 to \$1 million

Grant Awards Announced: Summer 2026

About the Program

- Saint John's Church, Lafayette Square, is honored to announce the Macauley Grant Program, a one-time transformational funding opportunity for nonprofit organizations serving the Washington, DC metropolitan area.
- Through the generosity of the Dorothy M. Macauley Estate, this grant program will award a select number of grants (up to two years) of \$50,000 to \$1 million.
- The purpose of the Macauley Grant Program is to benefit the sick, poor, and homeless, and to advance racial healing, reconciliation, social equity and justice in the Washington, DC region.

Focus Areas

Ideal applicants to the Macauley Grant Program should do at least one of the following:

- Serve the sick, poor, or homeless; or
- Address racial and structural inequalities affecting local communities; or
- Promote healing, dignity, and belonging through education or advocacy; or
- Collaborate with partners to strengthen the Beloved Community in the DC area.

Who Can Apply

Applicants to the Macauley Grant Program must:

- Be an IRS-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing.
- Operate within the Washington, DC metropolitan area.
- Demonstrate experience and measurable impact in serving vulnerable populations or addressing inequities.
- Have the organizational capacity to manage and report on a multi-year grant.
- Have an organizational history of operations of at least three years prior to application submission.
- Have an organizational budget of at least \$250,000.
- Align with the values of St. John's Church: love, inclusion, and service to all people.

Funding Details

- Amount: \$50,000 to \$1 million
- Duration: Up to 2 years
- Use of Funds: Direct program expenses, staff support, materials, outreach, and overhead/administrative costs
- Number of Awards: Limited, dependent on available funding and project scope, and at the discretion of the grant committee and the Vestry of St. John's

How to Apply

- Submit a letter of interest by completing the form online at <https://bit.ly/4rKlsKd>.
- Alternatively, you can also submit your letter electronically, via email to grants@stjohns-dc.org. Subject line: "Macauley LOI – [Organization Name]"
- The Macauley Grant committee will review letters of interest and invite select organizations to submit a full application in Spring 2026.

Letter of Interest Requirements

Each letter of interest should include:

- Basic organizational information:
 - Name
 - Website (if any)
 - Location (street address)
 - Federal tax ID
 - Current annual budget
 - Number of employees (if any)
 - Point of contact (name, email, and phone)
- A short narrative* describing the following (no longer than 900 words)
 - Your organization's history, mission and purpose
 - Your organization's current activities or programs, communities served, major successes or challenges (<400 words) (optional)
 - Alignment with Macauley grant program purpose (<200 words)
 - Impact of a transformational gift (<250 words)
 - Potential plans for sustaining program after grant ends

* Additional framing on page 4
- How you heard about the Macauley Grant Program

Review and Selection Process

LOIs will be reviewed by the Macauley Grant Committee and organizations selected to advance will be invited to submit a full application for review. Selection will be based on:

- Alignment with Macauley Grant Program purpose and St. John’s mission
- Demonstrated impact and sustainability
- Organizational strength and leadership capacity
- Potential effect of a transformational gift on the organization’s mission, reach, and impact
- Commitment to equity, compassion, and community transformation

Key Dates

All dates are approximate and subject to change.

- LOI opens – March 16, 2026
- LOI due date – April 16, 2026
- Notification of advancement and request for full application – April 30, 2026
- Full application due – June 1, 2026
- Grant award notification – July 30, 2026
- Grant period begins – August 1, 2026

Contact

For more information or questions about the application process, please contact:

- Email: grants@stjohns-dc.org
- Committee members: Krista Bradley, Rev. Will Morris, Jess Unger, RJ Price, Sandy Sierck, Peter Odom, Anthony Pegues, Nora Rigby.

Additional Framing for Narrative

The Washington, DC area faces persistent challenges in housing insecurity, access to health care, and systemic inequities. As of 2024, over 5,000 residents experience homelessness on any given night, and thousands more live on the margins without consistent access to medical care or safe shelter.

Beyond material needs, the city continues to wrestle with structural inequalities deeply rooted in race and economics—disparities that have historically shaped neighborhoods, opportunity, and wellbeing. As an institution woven into the city’s history, St. John’s acknowledges both its responsibility and its opportunity to be an instrument of repair and restoration.

The Macauley Grant Program will directly address these needs by expanding St. John’s outreach capacity, strengthening community partnerships, and funding programs that promote healing—both physical and social—among the DC region’s most vulnerable residents.

Through the generous bequest of Dorothy Macauley, Saint John’s Church, Lafayette Square will launch the Macauley Grant Program, a one-time, transformative initiative designed to serve the sick, poor, and homeless while advancing racial and social equity in the Washington, DC community.

Rooted in St. John’s 200-year history of faith, service, and social justice, the Macauley grant program will expand outreach efforts, deepen partnerships with local service organizations, and create sustainable systems of care and connection for individuals and families in need. The project will also reflect St. John’s ongoing commitment to Becoming Beloved Community—a long-term mission of racial healing, reconciliation, and justice—and to embodying the spiritual values of The Episcopal Church’s Sacred Ground program.