

ENVISION BOARD RECOMMENDATION TO SESSION FOR FUNDING:

**Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance (ERICA)
*Pathways to College***

Category: Ministry Development | Service in Community | Social Justice Advocacy | Capital Improvement

Community Serving : CPC | Local | National | International

<p>Description of the Project Pathways to College will provide students with: (1) pro bono college and financial aid guidance, (2) ERICA funding for intensive advanced Academic English courses to ensure readiness for American college-level work, and (3) connections to colleges that have a strong humanitarian interest and the financial capacity to support refugee students.</p> <p>Amount Given: \$40,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (\$20,000 year 1) ● (\$20,000 year 2) 	<p>Details of Project <i>Pathways to College</i> will offer guidance and support to recently arrived refugee and asylum-seeking students in Maryland who are academically prepared but face daunting barriers to entry into the expensive and complex world of American colleges and universities. ERICA advocates to universities to fund refugee and asylum-seeking undergraduates and has expanded outreach to Provosts, Directors of Admissions, heads of English language programs, and faculty members at local colleges and universities.</p>
<p>Why this project now Pathways to College began with the fall of the Afghan government in August, 2021, with the arrival of one young woman. She arrived in Baltimore alone and was laser-focused on completing her undergraduate education. She said: <i>“Education will save my life.”</i> Pathways to College enabled her to access a scholarship to Goucher College, and <i>did</i> save her life.</p> <p>When college students are forced to flee their countries because of war or persecution, they have to abandon educational aspirations due to the challenges of resettling in a foreign country. This program makes the difference between life as a university student or working in a warehouse.</p>	<p>How the project will be evaluated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Need and Demand:</i> the number of students who apply and participate in the program. ● <i>Academic English:</i> Duolingo, CEFR, TOEFL or another university English language test taken before and after courses in Intensive Academic English to indicate language level. ● <i>College admissions:</i> academic and financial packages offered by universities will indicate success of the college and financial aid guidance and of advocacy/outreach to universities. ● <i>Financial foundation for Pathways:</i> additional and diverse sources of funding will indicate growing interest and sustainability of the program. ● <i>Participant satisfaction:</i> qualitative survey will indicate participants’ perception of success.

IMA World Health
Nutrition and Economic Strengthening of Vulnerable Households
Affected by the 2021 Haiti Earthquake

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Description of the Project	Details of Project
<p>IMA World Health (IMA) seeks to establish Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) which will enable participants to manage their own basic financial services.</p> <p>VSLAs offer self-managed savings, insurance and credit services, and emphasize accountable governance, standard procedures and simple accounting.</p> <p>VSLAs will be trained on hygiene promotion and proper nutrition by Community Health Agents (ASCPs) to support nutrition and health. VSLA participants will establish biointensive gardens to improve agricultural productivity, and will receive cattle for livestock.</p> <p>Amount Given: \$25,000</p>	<p>IMA World Health project will support families with children living near three rehabilitated health centers in Grand Anse.</p> <p><i>Establishment/strengthening of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish 9 Village VSLAs to provide greater access to savings, insurance and credit. ● Training on income-generating activities. <p><i>Capacity building program on nutrition and community health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training of beneficiaries on the three qualities of food and how to have a balanced diet and good cooking practices. ● Training on promoting hygiene and nutrition in households. <p><i>Establishment of bio-intensive gardens with VSLA participants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purchase materials and implementation of bio-intensive gardens. ● Distribute cattle to beneficiaries.

Why this project now

On August 14, 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Haiti, with Grand Anse being the most severely affected area. Since, livelihoods have undergone significant changes due to loss of productive capital, property, jobs, disturbance of markets and economic activity, and absence of production activities. IMA found the most critical needs are ensuring basic primary health care services. Vulnerable families including mothers, breastfeeding women and pregnant women are struggling to access balanced and adequate diets for them and their family members and are unable to carry out sustainable income-generating activities to support their household.

How the project will be evaluated

- 270 family members will engage in income-generating activities and have access to credit through 9 VSLAs in the area around three rehabilitated centers.
- 270 family members will be supported by 9 VSLAs with nutrition, hygiene and health promotion, food, identifying malnutrition and guided to health centers for those needing acute care.
- Availability of agricultural and livestock products for sale and consumption through sustainable agricultural production and good livestock practices to boost agricultural productivity.
- The project will track the number of mothers reached by the project, number of children per family, field of activity for head of household, and number of malnourished children per family.

First and Franklin Presbyterian Church
Americans with Disabilities Act Bathroom

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<p>Description of the Project</p> <p>This project is seeking funds to make the church's meeting spaces, main sanctuary, and Reid Chapel accessible to persons with disabilities by adding an ADA compliant bathroom. The church is a historic 165-year old structure and requires careful renovation to add an ADA bathroom.</p> <p>Amount Given: \$20,000</p>	<p>Details of Project</p> <p>The First and Franklin church has only one first floor bathroom and it is too narrow to be used for any individuals needing special assistance with disabilities. The Reid Chapel, adjacent to the main sanctuary, serves many functions during the year including: Food Pantry, Alcoholics Anonymous & Narcotics Anonymous meetings, AIDS Action Baltimore meetings, Guns to Gardens Gun buyback programs, Bible Study, intimate concerts, Art exhibitions, dressing areas for weddings and funerals, refreshments after services, Alternative Christmas market, and community meetings such as the Mount Vernon Belvedere Association Meetings..</p>
<p>Why this project now?</p> <p>First and Franklin is in the middle of a capital campaign to raise funds to make meeting spaces and events more accessible to all people by adding an ADA compliant bathroom. The congregation added a wheelchair accessible ramp to the front of our sanctuary in 2010. The last obstacle to make the church accessible for persons with disabilities is adding an ADA compliant bathroom.</p>	<p>How the project will be evaluated</p> <p>The project's success will be measured by how many new events are held in the sanctuary that require ADA compliant bathrooms, and the number of requests for proposals that First and Franklin respond to.</p>