

SAC Grant Application Policies

- The First Parish Social Action Community Board funds awards at least once a year. In 2015-16 funding cycles, the deadline will be Monday, January 25th. Grants Requests are typically not considered outside of this funding cycle and only one Grant Request per organization is allowed in a First Parish fiscal year (July to June).
- Every Grant Request must be sponsored by a pledging member of First Parish, who is connected to the requesting organization, and not by a paid staff member of the organization.
- The SAC Board allocates a portion of each year's awards to support local community organizations in which First Parish members are involved, as well as metropolitan, national and international organizations.
- The SAC Board actively encourages social entrepreneurship and gives extra weight to Grant Requests which provide seed money for a specified and limited time period to "incubate" new ideas. Grant award priority is given to these new concepts and ventures.
- Grant awards aim to make a meaningful difference in the success of a project. To that end, an organization's or project's overall budget and alternative funding sources are important components in the SAC Board's decision making.
- Extra weight is given to applications from organizations which create opportunities for increased First Parish connection and participation. These opportunities should be clearly outlined in the Grant Request. Repeat funding requests must clearly identify these efforts and their outcome.
- No individual scholarship requests or Grant Requests to support individual First Parish member activities are considered. Please contact the Social Action Programs Director to explore alternative ways of funding individuals or to learn about scholarship options available to support the activities of First Parish members.
- Every grant recipient must submit a report within one year of the date of the Grant Request. Any subsequent funding is contingent upon receipt of a satisfactory report. The report must include information on how money was used, who was engaged or assisted with the project, and list the significant project outcomes. This report can be emailed to Bethany Russell-Lowe or mailed to her c/o First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd. Concord, MA 01742.
- The SAC Board follows conflict of interests of guidelines. No individual SAC Board members can sponsor a Grant Request. A SAC Board member in direct association with a Grant Request organization is excused from discussion and vote.
- Beginning in November 2009, an on-line public comment process was instituted for First Parish members. During a specified and publicized time period, comments may be made on pending grant requests. The SAC Board will review these comments prior to making their award decisions.