

Baptist General Association of Virginia – World Hunger Funds Policy

Authorization

The Baptist General Association of Virginia in annual session, November 9-10, 1982, adopted the recommendation of the Virginia Baptist General Board that undesignated World Hunger Funds be divided so that a portion of those funds would remain in Virginia for hunger needs within the Commonwealth. The division was 75% - Foreign Mission Board, 20% - Home Mission Board, 5% - BGAV

On April 17, 1991, the Virginia Baptist General Board revised the formula effective October 1, 1991, so that the undesignated World Hunger Funds would be divided 60% to the International Mission Board, SBC, 20% to the North American Mission Board, SBC and 20% to the Virginia Baptist Mission Board.

On December 2, 2008, the Virginia Baptist Mission Board again revised the formula to become effective January 1, 2009. This formula is as follows: Fifty percent of undesignated World Hunger Funds received by the Virginia Baptist Mission Board (now the Baptist General Association of Virginia) will be distributed to the Southern Baptist Convention, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and/or the Baptist World Alliance. The remaining 50% will be distributed through BGAV churches, associations, mission partners and other agencies throughout the BGAV network.

On March 7, 2023 the Executive Board approved the following change:

All funds received for hunger related ministries and missions will be distributed as determined by the authorized staff of the BGAV (currently Impact Missions Team). Recipients may include BGAV churches, associations, mission partners and other agencies throughout the BGAV and Ascent networks.

Designated funds will be distributed as assigned by donor(s).

Objectives

All World Hunger Funds administered by the Mission Development staff of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) are invested toward the following objectives:

1. To assist BGAV churches, associations, mission partners and other agencies throughout the BGAV network to purchase, grow, store, and distribute nutritious food for people who lack access to adequate quantity or quality of food.

2. To support organizations that build community, improve health and educational outcomes, and meet human needs through Baptist channels by enabling poor and hungry persons to be fed or to feed themselves.
3. To provide training or education that aids under-resourced families and communities in becoming more food secure.
4. To establish new ministries that will move current food distribution practices from immediate relief toward individual and systemic change.

Guidelines

1. **Supplemental.** Funds are used to assist recipients in implementing feeding ministries and programs in response to local food insecurity. Hunger Funds are intended as a supplement to recipients' own resources, so requests matching Hunger Funds with local contributions will be given priority.
2. **Immediate Utilization.** Funds will be distributed in response to requests detailing community needs and specific ways in which funds will be expended. Funds are not distributed for holding in the account of a local church, association or other organization without current and ongoing distribution for the designated purpose.
3. **Program Investment.** No funds may be used to support personnel or other administrative costs.
4. **Collaboration:** Recipients should communicate regularly with other local feeding programs and organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) to avoid duplication of services.
5. **Stewardship.** Recipients should exercise stewardship by partnering with local food banks and other agencies that provide no-cost or deeply discounted food and grocery products through distribution centers for community food pantries.
6. **Local Investment.** Recipients requesting funds for any collective program of food distribution or meal preparation must also be contributing their own financial and/or human resources to the program. Such programs should be denominational, ecumenical or strongly supportive of the mission of local churches.
7. **Disbursement.** The executive director, the team coordinator of Mission Development and their staff designee will be authorized to distribute funds at the following funding levels for U.S. based ministries:
 - a. One-time projects (i.e. Rise Against Hunger events, holiday collections, etc.)
 - i. Individual churches – Disbursements of up to \$500 per project, two projects annually (maximum of \$1,000 per year), administered on a rolling basis.

- ii. Associations, mission partners and other agencies – Disbursements of up to \$1,000 per project, two projects annually (maximum of \$2,000 per year), administered on a rolling basis.
 - b. Ongoing ministries, such as food pantries, community gardens, and regular meal provision.
 - i. Individual churches –Disbursements of up to \$1,000 per request (maximum of \$4,000 per year) processed on a quarterly basis.
 - ii. Associations, mission partners and other agencies – Disbursements of up to \$2,000 per request (maximum of \$8,000 per year processed on a quarterly basis.
 - c. Strategic or innovative start-ups, such as co-ops, training programs, large scale urban agriculture, and other more developmental approaches to food insecurity.
 - i. One-time disbursement of up to \$10,000, with additional application requirements and oversight, administered on a rolling basis.
- 8. **International.** Hunger Funds distributed to international partners are generally in accordance with the above Guidelines, but some additional flexibility may be offered. International partners are often located in areas that do not offer the same infrastructure or partnership opportunities afforded to the U.S. based partners; in this case, appropriate exceptions and disbursement levels will be determined at the discretion of the staff who maintain relationships with these international partners.

Updated – March 7, 2023