Help Unity Grow (HUG) Fund was created from designated money of an endowment as well as donations to the fund. The money is for physical property improvements, help with natural disasters, and travel expenses for new or prospective ministers.

Additional information and the HUG Fund Assistance Request Form can be obtained on our website: www.unity.org/hug

Donations to the Help Unity Grow Fund can be made by check, credit card, direct deposit or stock gift.

- Mail a check to Unity Worldwide Ministries, PO Box 610, Lee’s Summit, MO 64063. Please write “HUG Fund” on the memo line.
- Credit Card online. Use the “donate” button on our website. Under Donor Information, select “Other” from the Donor’s Designation dropdown menu and type “HUG Fund” in the “Other” field.

Criteria

What criteria does a ministry need to meet in order to be eligible for financial assistance?

- The ministry must have a prosperity consciousness. This includes the commitment of the credentialed leader, the board of trustees, and the congregation.
- A pattern of consistent giving to Unity Worldwide Ministries over the last 12-month period.
- A summary of how the proposed use of the funds will help Unity grow must be submitted.
- The ministry must have its annual report on file with Unity Worldwide Ministries.
HUG Fund Sources and Uses

What is the basis of the HUG Fund and what are the sources of these funds?

- Beers Estate Funds Assistance – Loans must be repaid with interest per the endowment requirements.
- The UWM Board has established, as part of Unity Worldwide Ministries (UWM), money to be placed into the HUG fund to be used as grants.
- Unity Worldwide Ministries also accepts donations for the HUG fund. This can be done online or by check.

How can ministries use the HUG Fund?

New minister trials and relocation. Capitalized items: such as emergency HVAC, roof repairs, parking lot creation or repair, A/V systems, greening the facility (windows, light fixtures, insulation, etc.), permanent branded signage.

The following are not eligible expenses: debt repayment, landscaping, operational expenses, salaries, program expense, training and education.

Amount of Loan

The fund was established by the Board with money originating from an endowment gift of nearly $250,000 to loan up to $50,000 for physical improvements, building expansion, or a new building.

The loan terms are 2 basis points less than the prime rate posted on the Wall Street Journal the day of board approval. The term of the loan may not exceed 60 months.

The loan may not exceed 50% of the total cost of the project. In addition, the total loan values may not exceed the following:

- Full status ministry: $50,000 USD
- Evolving ministry: $10,000 USD
- Alternative ministry: $10,000 USD

Qualifications for a grant are as follows:

- New minister relocations. UWM will sponsor 50% of the direct expenses up to $5,000 to move a new minister to a new location. (If the move costs the ministry $8,000, the ministry will be reimbursed $4,000 of the eligible expenses.) Receipts must be included for verification.

- Natural emergency situation. The ministry is eligible for up to $5,000 for a natural disaster. Proof of expenses is required. The reimbursement will be offset by insurance payments. (If the ministry has a natural disaster of $10,000 and insurance pays $8,000, the ministry could be granted $2,000.)

- For the process of employing a Unity credentialed leader: including assistance with the cost of interviews during the hiring process and covering the cost of relocation expenses associated with a newly hired credentialed leader. Receipts must be included. (This is for the entire employment period and not per candidate.)

Please note: All payments are made to the ministry.

Application Process

Step 1 Submit a HUG Fund Assistance Request Form (on www.Unity.org/HUG) and 24 months of financial statements and a current balance sheet to the HUG Fund Team through HUG@unity.org.

Step 2 The HUG Review Team will determine what, if any, other documents are needed. For example: attendance record, quotes, etc.

Step 3 Upon approval by the HUG Application Review Team, the assistance request is submitted to Unity Worldwide Ministries’ board for final approval. A check will be issued to the approved ministry.