

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.

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.

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.

Implementation – Virginia Hunger Funds

The Support Ministries staff of the BGAV will receive offerings and make initial divisions based on the established formula and/or the designations assigned. The 50% of undesignated hunger funds retained for use by the BGAV will be allotted as Virginia Hunger Funds, though not limited geographically. The executive director of the BGAV, the team coordinator of Mission Development and an additional staff member, as assigned, are authorized to distribute Virginia Hunger Funds in response to requests from BGAV churches, associations, mission partners and other agencies throughout the BGAV network (“recipients”) under the following domestic and international guidelines.

Domestic Guidelines:

1. **Supplemental.** Virginia Hunger Funds are used to assist recipients in implementing feeding ministries and programs in response to local food insecurity. Virginia Hunger Funds are intended as a supplement to recipients’ own resources, so requests matching Virginia 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 Virginia Hunger 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 Virginia Hunger Funds to individual BGAV churches and to associations, missions partners and other agencies (must involve collaboration between more than one BGAV church, not to be combined with individual requests) at the following funding levels:

- a. One-time projects, such as Stop Hunger Now.
 - i. BGAV 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. BGAV churches – Disbursements of up to \$1,000 per request (maximum of \$4,000 per year) via online request form, 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) via online request form, 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. Undifferentiated eligibility and request process for individual BGAV churches and for associations, mission partners and other agencies.

International Guidelines:

Virginia Hunger Funds distributed to international partners are generally in accordance with the above Domestic 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 BGAV's domestic partners; in this case, appropriate exceptions and disbursement levels will be determined at the discretion of the Mission Development staff who maintain relationships with these international partners.

The majority of international requests will best fit within the stipulations of Domestic Guideline 7.)c. ("strategic or innovative start-ups") and will be handled accordingly.

Thursday, April 28, 2016