

Assessment-Compliance Policy for Diocesan Grants

(adopted May 2025; applies to all grant programs listed at episcopalcolorado.org/grants)

1. Canonical Basis

In 2008, at the 121st Diocesan Convention, a resolution by churches was brought forth and passed defining the responsibility of churches for funding the diocese:

RESOLVED, that the Diocese of Colorado hereby sets the program of mandatory assessment to fund diocesan activities as described in Canon 5, Section 1 as a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the unrestricted annual plate and pledge income of each parish and mission in the diocese to fund the diocesan budget.

RESOLVED, that in addition to the program of mandatory assessment of ten percent (10%) to the Diocese of Colorado, each parish and mission is encouraged to contribute an additional five percent (5%) of their unrestricted annual plate and pledge for the support of Regional ministries.

In accordance with Canon I.4.6(e-f) of The Episcopal Church, which states that *“failure to make full payment [of the annual diocesan assessment] or to receive a waiver shall render the diocese ineligible to receive grants or loans ... unless approved by Executive Council,”* the Episcopal Church in Colorado adopts the parallel standard for its own diocesan grants.

2. Eligibility Requirement

- A congregation must have paid its full diocesan assessment for the most recently completed fiscal year *or*
- Have an assessment-payment waiver on file that has been formally granted by the Bishop and the Bishop has approved the congregation's plan to move to full compliance in the near future.

Congregations that do not meet either of these conditions are ineligible to apply for—or to receive—any diocesan grant funds.

3. Exception Process

- A congregation that is not current on its assessment may submit a written request for an exception to the Bishop.
- The Bishop, after consultation with the Canons and Regional Missioners, may approve a one-time or limited waiver that restores grant eligibility.
- All such exceptions will be reported to the Canons and Regional Missioners and noted in the grant award letter.

4. Verification

The Business Office at the Office of the Bishop will verify assessment status for every applicant before forwarding applications to the Regional Missioners. Applications from congregations deemed ineligible under this policy will be returned with a brief explanation and instructions on how to request an exception.

5. Effective Date

This policy applies to all grant cycles beginning June 1, 2025 and thereafter, and will be reviewed annually.