



## Churches Improving Communities

19 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Highland Park, NJ 08904

ImprovingNJ.org

ChurchesImprovingCommunities@gmail.com

April 2018

Dear Pastor and Members of Consistory:

Classis New Brunswick and Churches Improving Communities (CIC) are pleased to announce that the **Focus Church Development Program** application for the 2017/18 year is now available. The Focus Church Development Program gives any church in Classis New Brunswick the opportunity to apply for one year of CIC walking alongside your church to help organize and equip you to engage deeper in being the Church Sent – linking your particular strengths and gifts with the needs of your community. The desired result will be a newly created or expanded ministry of justice and mercy, and an articulated missional covenant with your community.

Churches Improving Communities, a non-profit community development corporation, provides programmatic and administrative support that are key to helping churches successfully organize programming, obtain and administer grants, conduct communications and fundraising efforts, grow their support base, and employ program personnel – resources that are available through the Focus Church Development Program for an entire year, and that strategically amplify the resources that the church already has in order to begin or expand effective community service and justice projects.

To apply for the Focus Church Development Program, please review the program materials attached here or via download on the CIC website at [www.ImprovingNJ.org](http://www.ImprovingNJ.org). Fill out and return the application to the address below, or scan and send your application via email to [ChurchesImprovingCommunities@gmail.com](mailto:ChurchesImprovingCommunities@gmail.com).

Churches Improving Communities  
C/o Focus Church Development Program  
9 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Highland Park, NJ 08904

All applications must be received by June 1, 2018 to be eligible for consideration in 2018. One applicant will be chosen for the 2017 program cycle. CIC contributes administrative skill and time to the FCDP projects, including assistance in securing outside funding, however, the selected church is responsible for the material costs associated with their particular project (i.e., advertising, program staff, office supplies, etc.).

**2018/19 Timeline:**

April - May 2018: CIC answers church inquiries about program and application

June 1, 2018: Applications due

June 15, 2018: CIC will announce the selected focus church

June 15 - July 31, 2018: Formation of Local Focus Church Development Program Committee and preliminary work

August 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019: Program implementation

Please direct all questions about the program or application to [ChurchesImprovingCommunities@gmail.com](mailto:ChurchesImprovingCommunities@gmail.com). An FCDP committee member will be happy to guide you through the application process.

We look forward to hearing from you and to reviewing your application!

In Peace,

*Carrie Dirks Amedeo*

Carrie Dirks Amedeo  
Executive Director  
Churches Improving Communities

**CHURCHES IMPROVING COMMUNITIES**  
**FOCUS CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (FCDP) APPLICATION 2017**

Church Name:

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Church Address:

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Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Contact Name and Position:

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Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Pastor:

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***\*\*CIC-FCDP is made possible by an anonymous grant from a church in Classis New Brunswick. We thank you!\*\****

## **APPLICATION NARRATIVE**

**Please provide brief 3-4 sentence answers to each question in Sections I – V below.**

### **I. Describe the community in which your church is located:**

- What are the demographics? How are they changing over time?
- Who is the majority? Who are the people on the margins?

### **II. Describe your church:**

- Who are you in terms of members, buildings, and finances?
- In what areas and ministries is your church really strong? Please provide details, anecdotes, etc.
- What draws people into your church?
- What groups do you seek to serve?
- Has Consistory identified areas of concerns for your church? (Please use Annual Report to General Synod, Part 2.a.)
- Please attach a copy of your annual report.

**III. What DREAMS do you have for your congregation? If your church were chosen for CIC's Focus Church Development Program, in what ways would you like to see your church equipped to be the Church Sent?**

- What programs would you like to see developed, grown or expanded at your church *to meet the needs people in your larger community*, and to provide opportunities for members of your congregation to be involved in ministries of compassion, justice and love of neighbor? Why is serving the community important to your congregation?
- Please describe how the CIC Focus Church Development Program might help you develop potential ideas and why. Here are a few examples; please add ideas of your own.

**EXAMPLES:**

Repair/Create Shelter or Housing for Homeless  
Food Pantry or Soup Kitchen  
Childcare for Low-Income Parents  
Afterschool Programs  
Preschool  
Transportation  
Employment Counseling  
Elder Care  
Job Training  
Prison Re-entry programs

International Partnerships with Churches  
GED Classes  
English as a Second Language Classes  
AA  
Bereavement Support Group  
Disaster Relief  
Inter-Religious Dialogue  
Community Thrift Store  
Community Garden  
Environmental Group  
Low-cost Mental Health Counseling

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Describe your church's capacity in the following:**

- Experience & Skill – What experience and/or skills will your congregation bring to the Focus Church Development Program?
- Cultural awareness and competency – How will you ensure appropriate cultural sensitivity and competency in reaching out into the community with programming or ministry?
- Readiness to be the Church Sent – Is your church spiritually prepared to go out into the community and engage in justice and mercy ministry?
- Financial – What financial resources can you commit to the Focus Church Development Program?
- Congregational Involvement – Please list two to three individuals from your church who will work on the CIC Focus Church Development Program Steering Committee at monthly meetings:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**V. Describe the vision for your church:**

- What is your overall vision for your church relating to CIC's Focus Church Development Program?
- In what way might this application process already be helpful?
- What results would you consider successful if your church were to be selected?

**Churches Improving Communities (CIC)  
Focus Church Development Program Administration & Reporting Structure**

Focus Church: The successful Focus Church Development Program applicant church and its target community.

Local Focus Church Development Program Committee: A committee made up of volunteers from the Focus Church and 2-3 members of the CIC Focus Church Development Program Steering Committee, including the CIC Executive Director.

CIC Focus Church Development Program Steering Committee: A Steering Committee charged with the creation, implementation, and oversight of the Focus Church Development Program, a program of Churches Improving Communities. The FCDP Steering Committee is comprised of members of the Board of Directors of Churches Improving Communities, the Executive Director of CIC, the Classis New Brunswick Administrative Council, two members of the chosen Focus Church, and the Classis church supplying the initial funding for this program.

Churches Improving Communities (CIC) Board of Directors: A board of directors made up of representatives from Classis New Brunswick churches, and charged with the administration and oversight of CIC, a 501c3 non-profit community development corporation, and its programs: FCDP, NeighborCorps Re-Entry Services, Churches Accomplishing Long-Term Recovery (CALTR), and Church-Based Mental Health Services (CBMHS).

Classis Administrative Council & Congregational & Pastoral Care Committee: The Classis New Brunswick administrative structure that partners with CIC to implement the Focus Church Development Program.

