Government Grants to 501(c)(3) Organizations

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Introduction

Nonprofits play a significant role in the lives of people especially those who are underserved and/or underprivileged. According to Cornell Law School, "A non-profit organization is a group organized for purposes other than generating profit and in which no part of the organization's income is distributed to its members, directors, or officers" (Legal Information Institute, n.d. b). Which causes one to wonder, how nonprofits are able to make such an impact. Grants are just one form of financing for nonprofits; yet it is a considerable source amounting to 31.8% of their total capital (Hrywna, 2019). Grants are a valuable financial resource for any organization to receive.

There are different types of nonprofits and they include organizations that deal with a wide range of important topics such as socioeconomic assistance and aid. The Downtown Women's Center in Los Angeles helps serve homeless women and the Miracle Foundation helps children by partnering with more than 300 orphanages (Miracle Foundation, 2021). Religious organizations are also considered nonprofits and provide needed services to their communities. Local churches, synagogues, and mosques provide meals, clothes and various forms of help to their communities. Young men and women feel a sense of belonging at family nights which contributes to a healthy communal environment creating a positive social impact. Understanding how grants are awarded and divided is the key to understanding the importance they have on any nonprofit organization's sustainability.

Literature Review

Grants are not easy to get, and non-profit organizations have many steps to overcome. The process starts with finding an appropriate grant, continues into the filing

process and must take into account the laws and restrictions. Majority of the issues and challenges do stem from the lack of funding that some nonprofit organizations do not see. An interesting statistic from the National Council of Nonprofits shows that the majority of nonprofits have a budget that is below $1 million at a staggering 92% (Hrywna, 2019). With most of this percentage being made up of smaller organizations spending below $500,000 on average annually. This shows just how underfunded organizations can be when providing important, if not necessary, services to assist the less fortunate in any socioeconomic way possible. This does not only apply to the services these organizations provide, but it must also take into account the administrative side of the organization. Having low amounts of funding can cripple nonprofit organizations, especially since upwards of 12 million employees make up their workforce (Hrywna, 2019). The difficulties come from finding the proper grants and funding sources. Visiting the website for government grants tends to be tedious, difficult, and inefficient.

The process for applying for and receiving grants has its challenges, and having experience filling out the application can be the difference between approval or not. The process is cumbersome to say the least. It is difficult to find a grant let alone file for it and wait to get approved. Some of the questions that come to mind when discussing grants are, how difficult is it to receive a grant and are there any advantages between faith-based organizations and secular ones. Also, there may be barriers with the use of information technology equipment for those who are not proficient with the use of computers and software. Arthur Farnsley's research revealed organizations will have professional grant writers. His study also revealed faith-based organizations were the

only category who scored very poorly on the application process (2001). From his research it is apparent there is a gap in the experience and quality of grant application writing that exists between faith-based nonprofits and their secular counterparts. We hope to understand the process for grant writing and whether or not the application process is equitable between faith-based organizations and secular ones.

Religious organizations have an uphill battle to face; not only to find and file for grants correctly, but they are also restricted in how they are able to use the funds. According to the US Constitution, the first Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" (Legal Information Institute, n.d. a) . On the other hand states like California include similar wordings in its Constitution " The Legislature shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" (California, n.d). Faith based organizations cannot spend federal or state grants on the things they need. Instead they are only allowed to spend grant money on activities approved by congress or the state such as things to prevent teen crimes, homelessness and other issues relating to community benefits excluding religious items. The grants cannot be used in anything that might promote religious activities (United States, n.d)). Therefore, funding for religious organizations is very restrictive. Secular non-profits might be able to use grant money to update their website and buy new speakers; however, a religious institution would not be able to spend the grant money on those same items because they would be used to propagate the religion in some form.

Research Question

How is the difficulty of finding grants, applying for grants, and grant restrictions leave faith-based nonprofit organizations at a disadvantage?

Research Design

Questions To Non-profit Leaders

1. Has availability of funds created or solved any problems? Which is more likely to happen? Please elaborate.

2. How can technology provide a better experience for the congregation both in person and online?

3. Not including people who tithe regularly and plate offerings, how else do you receive funding for your organization (include sources, and estimated percentage of this compared with those who tithe and plate offerings)

4. If you had to seek extra funding or alternative funding, who would you reach out to?

5. If there was a state or federal grant you were eligible for, what would encourage you to apply, and what would discourage you from applying?

6. How would a state or federal grant help your organization support advancement in technologies such as computers, websites, computer softwares, speakers, technical equipment and other technology related products?

7. If you had an additional $100,000 per year, how would you use it? How much would you spend on technology?

8. Have you filled for a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization status? Why or why not?

Target Research Participant Audience and Recruitment Methods

The target research audience are the leaders of the organizations which include the pastors and imam. They vary in age, mostly male, income is unknown but less than $100,000. They are proficient in the use of computers but not necessarily equipped to apply for a grant independently. Ethnicities include North African, Northern European, and Southeast Asian. The

leaders of the organizations have been chosen as the target audience. They will be sent an email with a Google form with questions to be completed by the end of the week.

Service Organizations

The Place in Fallbrook is a small Assemblies of God church located in the city of Fallbrook, a small town within the county of San Diego, California. The organization is relatively new, and has been around for less than 10 years (Our Playbook, n.d). The church started in the home of Pastor Brad Griswold and then moved to Main Street in Fallbrook. Recently, the lease on Main Street ran out leaving the church to return to Pastor Brad's home, also located in Fallbrook. The Place is welcome to all, and since the church is small it would be misleading to say it is predominantly composed of a gender or race. There are regular non-caucasian attendees. The mission of The Place is to reach out to those who feel hopeless with the simple message "you matter" (Our Playbook, 2015). The Place in Fallbrook relates to the topic because it is a small nonprofit organization that does not have a dedicated team to search for and apply for grants. This leaves the organization at a disadvantage for supporting its technological needs. Having more funds to support technological needs through grants would help the organization continue to reach more through an online presence.

The Iglesia Ni Cristo - Church of Christ is a church in Santa Maria, California. One of many congregations throughout the world, this congregation has been established for approximately 49 years this upcoming March 2022. Currently, the chapel is planning to undergo a large-scale renovation that could see changes being made both inside and outside. A part of these plans include upgrading the current technology set up making services equitable for both online and in-person worshippers. The common attendees tend to be Filipino, but there are members from all walks of life and all are welcome at the church. The Iglesia Ni Cristo strives to help everyone on their spiritual journey through life.The mission of the Iglesia Ni Cristo ranges from both evangelical to also any socio-civic issues to help their fellowmen. Some of the social

projects include "Aid to Humanity", "Community/Housing Projects", "Livelihood Projects" and much more (Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ), 2021). Relating to the topic, the Iglesia Ni Cristo relies mostly on donations from its members; it can benefit from the additional funding grants can provide.

The Islamic Center of Reseda or ICR for short, was established in 1997 in the San Fernando Valley in Reseda (History, n.d). It started as a small mosque and has grown into an expanded facility capable of holding hundreds of people. ICR is a place of worship for muslims from any group or ethnicity; a place to come and enhance their relationship with God. They follow the methodology of Sunnah. People are invited to seek understanding on a range of topics including "Quranic exegesis, Prophetic teachings, Islamic history, Creed, Arabic studies, and more" (History, n.d). The ICR is involved with many social and communal projects. They offer charities and assistance to those in need. ICR provides a place for social gathering for all ages though its " Eid (special holiday) activities, Friday family nights, health/blood drives, civic engagement, fine arts classes, picnics, and fitness and sports tournaments" (History, n.d). They also offer community integration and civic engagement through its programs teaching about economic skills, drug awareness and other needs. ICR has Open Mosque Day to provide mutual understanding in the community. ICR offers weekend programs for the youth along with tutorships for academics and youth sport events. The ICR is also an official Emergency Shelter site designated by the American Red Cross (History, n.d).

The ICR's mission is to teach authentic Islamic education and to spread social responsibility (Mission, n.d). It is important to have islamic centers that teach authentic and non-corrupted teachings of Islam. With the rise of social media, it is not always easy to find correct information about the religion. If the center was able to propagate it's message online more effectively then it could be a source of guidance for members of the Islamic faith and also those who are seeking answers about the teachings of the Quran and prophetic sayings (hadiths).

Conduct Research

At The Place the interview was conducted with the senior Pastor Brad Griswold. The Place is a small non-profit organization that does not have the level of funding found at larger churches in the area. Pastor Brad has been serving at The Place since its inception, and was the ideal candidate for the interview because he is responsible for the majority of all aspects of the church. Brother Aljun Belong from the Iglesia Ni Cristo, Locale of Santa Maria, was interviewed concerning our topic. Brother Aljun is an Evangelical Worker who understands the procedures that have been practiced by the Iglesia Ni Cristo and also the many needs of the assembly in Santa Maria, California. At the Islamic Center of Reseda, the interview was conducted with the imam of the mosque Sheikh Sayed Jumuaa. The Sheikh was the ideal person at the mosque to speak on the topic because he oversees the finances of the mosque and is a senior member of the religious organization.

Findings

Pastor Griswold explained the importance of having funding, and how technology serves as an avenue for people who are not interested in attending live services. The funding received at his organization is made possible through members who tithe regularly, and through additional plate offerings. Although his organization is a 501(3)(c), if extra funding was needed, he would be strongly opposed to reaching out for Government funding. This is because he shares the same view as defined by the U.S. Constitution, and would not want Government interference (Separation of Church and State) (B. Griswold, personal communication, February, 5, 2022). For more information please refer to Appendix A.

In Brother Aljun Belong's responses, he notes that funding is used for many different projects one of which is humanitarian works through "Aid to Humanity " while it can also be used for building chapels. While technology has also continued to allow both social activities and other church gatherings to be held amidst the pandemic that the world is currently going

through. In terms of funding, the sole source comes from the offerings and donations of the members. Applying for any state or federal grants has not been pursued, because of the protocols and processes that must be followed. This is done by going through the proper chains to seek approval from the administration of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (A. Belong, personal communication, February, 7, 2022). For more information please refer to Appendix B.

Sheik Sayed Jumuaa disclosed that the mosque, like other non-profit organizations, rely heavily on individual donations. He stated that the community was the only source that they can turn to for funds when in need. However, if there was a grant available that the mosque could apply for then Sheikh Jumuaa said that they would use it to "expand the existing programs and services offered to the community" (S. Jumuaa, personal communication, Feb 11, 2022). He further elaborated that due to the pandemic that closed the doors of the mosque in 2020, the organization's services and courses had to be moved online. Sheikh Jumuaa hopes that the mosque could raise more funds and hire more people to keep these programs alive. For more information please refer to Appendix C.

Themes

A common theme among those interviewed was the importance of technology to serve as a medium of communication. Most homes will have at least some form of computing device such as a smartphone, tablet, or computer. These devices allow communication through applications such as Facebook and YouTube via the internet. Communication through technology has become critical due to the impacts the Coronavirus has had in society. In fact, as pointed out by Sheikh Sayed Jumuaa "During the pandemic all services and communication were dependent on social media. We were forced to close our doors and in order to serve our community this was our only resource" (S. Jumuaa, personal communication, February, 11, 2022).

Another commonality shared by the organizations interviewed is that they are all dependent on individual donations from their communities. Although all of those interviewed

were registered 501(3)(C) non-profits, they did not apply for grants that are made available to

them. The reasons for this varied from one religious site to another; they included objections to

government involvement, hierarchical decision making, and lack of knowledge on what is

available.

This can also be said for the use and availability of funding for all organizations. It can be

seen that many of these organizations can truly benefit from the use and the application of

federal and/or state grants. There are many different applications that these can be used for

ranging from the upkeep of places of worship, upgrading technologies (A. Belong, personal

communication, February 7, 2022) and also the ability to provide services and existing programs

designed to aid the community.

Although we had originally sought to discover whether religious institutions had difficulty

finding and applying for grants due to restrictions and formalities; we did not reach a consensus

in our findings. We did find that none of the religious institutions we interviewed had applied for

grants; however, their reasons for not doing so varied. Only the Islamic Center of Reseda

representative, Sheikh Sayed Jumuaa, showed unfamiliarity with funds that are available to

them . However we could not get the Imam to further elaborate whether the organization had

tried looking for a grant before but failed, or if they just don't know that they exist (S. Jumuaa,

personal communication, February, 11, 2022). On the other hand, Pastor Griswold from The

Place was against any type of federal or state funding even if they were made easily available

(B. Griswold, personal communication, February5, 2022).This stemmed from concerns that it

would not be in the best interests of the church to rely on the Government for such grants. The

pastor felt further empowered to reject such funds because they would go against what he sees

as the ideal of the church (B. Griswold, personal communication, February 7, 2022). As for

Brother Aljun Belong from Church of Christ, he explained that whether the church applied for

grants or not was decided by the church administration higher ups. It was not clear if the Church

of Christ had ever applied or accepted a grant in the past (A. Belong, personal communication, February 7, 2022).

Conclusions

The answers we got from our research were not what we were expecting to get. We anticipated that the religious organizations would be at a disadvantage; however, their responses varied. We were hoping to find out if the organizations ever applied but got denied for a government grant. We wanted to know what difficulties they would face in their application process and if a more financially stable organization had an advantage in the people it could hire to get the grants. However, the answers we got indicated to us that none of the organizations interviewed had ever applied for a grant and their reasons did not confirm to us that it was because of a disadvantage.

Perhaps because our pool of interviewees was small; we did not expect a great amount of data. However, we did expect a response related to the difficulty of finding or applying for grants. The main conclusion was, a lack of experience in applying for grants that had no relation to restrictions or experience in applying. A couple of the organizations would not rule out applying, and one organization member was opposed to reaching out for any Government assistance.

Our answers continued to vary, mainly because of the different outlooks from our various sites where our research was conducted. Although many have stated how important and how useful additional funding could be, there was also a different school of thought when it came to seeking federal or state grants. These grants could assist each of our organizations, however, due to the different faiths and beliefs, some may not have found it as the right path to take. Therefore, we are unsure how difficult it has been for these organizations to find and apply for these grants. However, one thing that was known is that some of these organizations did not know about the existence of these opportunities.

The results of the findings were that religious organizations are not monolithic in their desire for government grants. There were some that were completely against any federal help, some that had no interest and others that did not know about grant availability. In the case of the Islamic Center of Reseda, we got some of the responses that we were expecting. The Islamic Center was at a disadvantage because they did not know if they could receive any aid from federal or state grants (S. Jumuaa, personal communication, February, 11, 2022). The conclusion is thus that we could not determine what disadvantages the religious organizations could face when filing for a grant; but we determined that they were all registered non-profits from the surveys we collected. We also concluded that we could not decisively state that those who were uninterested in federal grants did not actually do so due to misunderstandings about grant procedures.

The findings also showed that organizations did not put any priority in meeting their financial needs into the hands of the government. All relied on the generosity of their members and the community to meet financial obligations, where no paperwork or heavy lifting is required. Two of the organizations would not rule out applying however, none of their answers gave the impression they would be looking any time soon.

All our interviewees expressed how useful the additional funding could be to the betterment of the organization. This can be seen through possible community outreach programs that are being used to help those in need of assistance, albeit through education or community aid. However, we were only able to answer our research question partially. A good example that can be seen in our research is the separation of church and state, which is why The Place doesn't seek government aid and assistance (B. Griswold, personal communication, February 5, 2022). There are also protocols that are followed as seen in the Iglesia Ni Cristo, where Brother Aljun Belong mentioned that they would apply for these grants if instructed by the administration of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (A. Belong, personal communication, February 7, 2022). An interesting find was seen by the Imam of the Islamic Center of Reseda, who stated that they

would apply for the grants if they were available (S. Jumuaa, personal communication, February 11, 2022). What we do know after these studies, is that there are case by case circumstances for faith-based organizations that keep the option for government help open to seek additional assistance.

The conclusions are not as decisive as we had hoped and it cannot be said that the principles of social justice were reflected in our findings. It seems that the lack of regard in terms of grants to the religious institutions has made it a custom to not seek any aid from federal and state grants. Organizational grants are not advertised to religious institutions clearly enough and so the churches and mosques interviewed did not acknowledge any grants from what should be attainable for them.

There is a lot to unpack, in terms of how to synthesize our conclusions with the different principles we've encountered in this course. However, if there was one to be used it would be equity in terms of the achievement of federal and state grants but this would also be somewhat of a stretch to say the least. Our findings do not have a definitive impact or reflection of the principles of social justice but these organizations do their part when it comes to helping those in need whether financially or spiritually.

The conclusions reflect an aspect not covered in the class as it relates to social justice. The organizations showed a reliance on the community to give what they felt appropriate and not Government involvement. Although the answers to the questions of how much and at what variation were donations given are unknown, a reasonable assumption is they varied in size. The organizations did not need the Government to step in and fill gaps, they just needed the freedom to practice what they believe in, their organizational mission. For further information please see Appendix A, B, and C.

Recommendations

Going into this research project there were a lot of unknowns that were to be expected especially in terms of how funding was raised by these organizations. However, this doesn't

mean that recommendations cannot be made. There are many different faith-based organizations in every community and a survey of only three may not have provided a great sample size, but it did produce a very diverse range of answers. There were no obvious conclusions, but there was a better understanding of the overall vision of these organizations.

There are some recommendations that might encourage more applications from religious institutions in pursuing grants. One recommendation for future research would be to find out whether nonprofit organizations are sent notifications of grants available to them. For example, based on the type of organization, does the federal or state government have a mailing list to send out announcements for grants that would be applicable to a certain nonprofit? At the federal and state level, better communication would foster an awareness of funding available, putting the ball in the court of the nonprofits to act on such grants. Making sure the application process is simple is another recommendation that could entice more organizations to apply. Removing the barrier of application complexity would allow the nonprofit to compete for a grant even if they lack the experience seen with big organizations that have dedicated grant writers.

Another recommendation for future research could be to be more specific about organizational grants that could be used by religious institutions, and research on why organizations are not inviting these religious establishments to apply. All organizations expressed how additional funding could help community outreach programs but did not seek funding due to beliefs, protocols, or lack of knowledge of said funding opportunities. It would seem unfair to alienate religious establishments from grants by neglecting to inform them about their options.

Furthermore, there should be more action done to help religious centers. This is important especially since the government cannot take any action of aid towards them. Therefore, there should be more awareness made to non-governmental organizations about the benefits of having churches, synagogues and mosques, and why they should want to support

them financially. If grants are hard to get even from non-governmental organizations, then this means that there is a disconnect between the needs of the religious organizations and organizations that might be willing to help. There should be renewed awareness to raise interest for these neglected organizations.

Local governments can do a lot to help faith-based organizations that do help the surrounding community. Perhaps there should be more sympathy towards religious institutions in our state of California. Having clear and obvious grant opportunities for these organizations would be the main solution to these. So many religious programs provide services for many marginalized communities, it is only right that these programs are also assisted. This can be achieved by the sites, towns, and larger governments increasing the awareness and simplicity of grant attainment. Policies can be created with the intent of removing as many contingencies as possible. This will create a certain flexibility that would eliminate barriers or obstacles from standing in the way of a nonprofit receiving grants.

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Appendix A

Interview with Senior Pastor at The Place: Brad Griswold

The interview took place through a Google form sent to the email address of the Pastor. The interviewee was chosen because he is the Pastor of a church that is a small non-profit organization that does not have many of the resources found at larger churches.

Has availability of funds created or solved any problems? Which is more likely to happen? Please elaborate.

Funds answer more problems than the challenges they create. Wanting to properly use the money entrusted to us is a good problem to have. Lack of funds create new obstacles that weren't in existence when the funds were readily available.

How can technology provide a better experience for the congregation both in person and online?

Depending on your approach, technology is an Avenue to attract those not already engaged with the people who attend Online it draws folks to the message for it can be pleasing to see or hear. In person it can become too showy. It creates more spectators and less disciples in my opinion.

Not including people who tithe regularly and plate offerings, how else do you receive funding for your organization (include sources, and estimated percentage of this compared with those who tithe and plate offerings)

No other funding

If you had to seek extra funding or alternative funding, who would you reach out to?

The organization we belong to first. They hopefully would provide ideas for raising money

If there was a state or federal grant you were eligible for, what would encourage you to apply, and what would discourage you from applying?

I don't believe in taking federal or state funds for a church. I believe they should remain separate. I believe if the funds dry up God will direct to new pastures. Relying on government funds shouldn't be an option.

How would a state or federal grant help your organization support advancement in technologies such as computers, websites, computer softwares, speakers, technical equipment and other technology related products?

Again, bring a church that relies on the government is asking for a whole new set of challenges.

If you had an additional $100,000 per year, how would you use it? How much would you spend on technology?

We would come together as a group and consider good places to invest- those with limited basic human needs or safety issues. I also would require some to be saved. The best way to stay within a budget is to underspend, nit overspend because of a temporary bit of good fortune

Have you filed for a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization status? Why or why not?

We are a registered 501(3)(c). Accountability is a primary reason internally. Also those who give can write off their taxes the amounts allowed by law which benefits them also. Doing things right is always the best method.

Appendix B

Interview with Evangelical Worker: Brother Aljun Belong

This interview was conducted via a Google Form Survey that was shared. Brother Aljun is the recently assigned Evangelical Worker of the Iglesia Ni Cristo, Local Congregation of Santa Maria. He is the one currently in charge of leading the members both in regular services and other matters pertaining to the maintenance and upkeep of the chapel. He was chosen for this interview due to his understanding of the different procedures that the Iglesia Ni Cristo has in terms of funding and how it relates to the many projects that have been planned for Santa Maria. Projects such as the renovation of the chapel, which will also include technology upgrades from computers to audio equipment.

Has availability of funds created or solved any problems? Which is more likely to happen? Please elaborate.

The availability of funds helps in the needs of the brethren (Aid to Humanity), upkeeping of the chapel (renovation), and helping in the works of propagation. With the growing number of brethren from around the world, purchasing buildings and/or land properties to be converted to chapels is another important matter of the availability of funds.

How can technology provide a better experience for the congregation both in person and online?

Technology, at present, is helping the brethren to connect one another in social gatherings. Before the pandemic, the brethren were able to watch programs and church official programs. And now this pandemic is reeking havoc in the society, we used the technology to our advantage to conduct church gatherings and meetings without increasing the cases of this pandemic. Although it is through the camera and few other instruments/gadgets that gives us a scope of the understanding of the brethren, it helps us be connected in the church activities that strengthens on faith.

Not including people who tithe regularly and plate offerings, how else do you receive funding for your organization (include sources, and estimated percentage of this compared with those who tithe and plate offerings)

First and foremost, we are a non-profit organization; we don't ask for grants or loans. Secondly, we follow solely in the Bible, and that is, the Church Administration will distribute based on the needs and task at hand.

If you had to seek extra funding or alternative funding, who would you reach out to?

Based on the teachings in the Bible, we ministerial workers are prohibited to conduct any sideline jobs (such as sales person, house-to-house vendor, and the like). We conduct donation in the congregation. We give short lectures about the importance of these donations and how these help with the task at hand.

If there was a state or federal grant you were eligible for, what would encourage you to apply, and what would discourage you from applying?

As the chain of command, we follow what the Church Administration instruct us. If they instruct us to apply, then we will apply for a grant. Otherwise, we do not accept state or federal grant.

How would a state or federal grant help your organization support advancement in technologies such as computers, websites, computer softwares, speakers, technical equipment and other technology related products?

It would definitely helps us with software and technical equipment. But like what was mentioned earlier, we do not apply for a grant unless an instruction from the Church Administration.

If you had an additional $100,000 per year, how would you use it? How much would you spend on technology?

For the upkeeping of the utilities of the chapel. Helping in the renovation/beautification as well. For the technology, the important equipment that will help the congregation be active; especially during the meetings and video streaming of our church leaders. Not saying any named and popular brands, but those that can complete the task continuously, economically, and effectively.

Have you filed for a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization status? Why or why not?

The Church Of Christ is a Christian religion that is a non-profit organization. We respect the

grants that are willing to give assistance, but we will follow the Church Administration that

guides us on the decisions on the funds being used for the brethren and for the congregation.

Appendix C

Interview with the Imam of Islamic Center of Reseda: Sheikh Sayed Jumuaa

The interview was conducted through a google survey on February 11, 2022. Sheikh Jumuaa is the imam of the mosque and is well aware of the economics of the organizations. He has been the imam at ICR for more than ten years and is the go-to person in the mosque.

Has availability of funds created or solved any problems? Which is more likely to happen? Please elaborate.

All nonprofit organizations are dependent on funds and schedule activities, programs based on the availability of funds. Our organization is dependent on individual donations.

How can technology provide a better experience for the congregation both in person and online?

Technology expedites communication. During the pandemic all services and communication were dependent on social media. We were forced to close our doors and in order to serve our community this was our only resource.

Not including people who tithe regularly and plate offerings, how else do you receive funding for your organization (include sources, and estimated percentage of this compared with those who tithe and plate offerings)

All donations we receive are all given by the community.

If you had to seek extra funding or alternative funding, who would you reach out to?

We do not have any other resource to turn to and ask for extra funding.

If there was a state or federal grant you were eligible for, what would encourage you to apply, and what would discourage you from applying?

If there was a federal grant available to the organization we would apply for it. We would be able to expand the existing programs and services offered to the community.

How would a state or federal grant help your organization support advancement in technologies such as computers, websites, computer softwares, speakers, technical equipment and other technology related products?

The communication has been that the congregation has been very happy with having access to be able to attend virtual classes and services. Being able to have the staff and software to continue to offer this would be great.

If you had an additional $100,000 per year, how would you use it? How much would you spend on technology?

 We offer the above mentioned.

Have you filed for a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization status? Why or why not?

We are a registered non profit organization.