

Request for Additional HICO Funding:

The PAC respectfully requests the Board to endorse and recommend to the congregation that HICO be funded with \$100,000 to continue its mission of outreach and partnership with our East End communities and charitable institutions.

HICO will start its third grant cycle in Spring 2022. The PAC anticipates granting the remaining funds in our account of just over \$28,000. It would be unfortunate if these grants were made without a clear commitment to HICO's future.

What does social justice look like for the UUSSF? HICO helps define who we are and who we want to be. It puts our UU values into action. It is concrete not aspirational. The programs we support make a real difference.

HICO's second group of grantees will be showcased on January 16, 2022. The five organizations will feel both familiar as well as new to us. The congregation got a glimpse into the possibilities when we received a guided tour of the Southampton African American Museum in October. Our last HICO Meet and Greet generated significant goodwill and made everyone feel very proud of the good work we can do with our local partners.

HICO is becoming established as a donor/partner for East End non-profits. This is a unique position as the resources available on the East End do not correspond with the wealth that often defines our area. Continuing to be a reliable partner enables us to play a vital and unique role in our community.

Why is the PAC looking for a multi-year commitment?

The \$100,000 requested is expected to have a similar time frame as the initial funding with three grant cycles over 2 ½- 3years.

Success builds upon success. Our grantees need to know we will be around for the long-term. This is essential for effective partnering as well as spreading the word throughout our community.

It will allow for multi-year support for organizations that have done good work. They get to know us, and we are known to them.

HICO can be supportive in our ability to attract and retain new members who are motivated by social concerns. This financial commitment needs to be long-term not an annual subject of debate and justification.

HICO can accept donations. Individuals are more likely to be generous knowing the program has a history as well as a secure future.

Why \$100,000? Can we afford it?

\$100,000 is the same dollar amount approved by the Congregation in November of 2019. As you know, this was made possible by Paul Berman's bequest and provides a legacy for his generosity and trust.

We have a better idea of the “demands” of non-profits and the need for essential services in our East End Communities. We also have much greater appreciation of the void we can fill.

HICO granted awards totaling \$41,175 to 7 organizations in 2020 and \$31,000 to 5 recipients in 2021. The applications in both cycles were extremely strong. The PAC felt constrained in having to choose between funding a larger number of programs vs. making more significant dollar grants. In the future, there is some desire to scale-up awards to be a larger percentage of an applicant’s request. This would be facilitated by a sizeable long-term budget.

As of November 2021, the UUCSF’s UU Common Endowment Fund account had a balance of nearly \$730,000. A traditional philanthropic approach would take a long-term view and fund a HICO type endeavor via the 4-5% return anticipated for this asset. This would translate into the equivalent of our ask of \$30-35,000 annually.

The UUCSF endowment’s size provides an opportunity for us to evaluate our priorities. It contrasts the ability to reach out to our community **today** making a difference vs. security of the congregation’s future 10 years out.

The congregation’s financial situation is clearly divisive. On one hand, we weathered the initial storm of COVID and didn’t seek government assistance. We remain financially sound with significant assets and available funds of \$779,000 as of November 2021. On the other hand, we need a growing membership to support our on-going expenses. The PAC would submit that HICO enhances UUCSF attractiveness as well as image and is an **investment** in UUCSF’s future not an expense.

Can UUCSF expand HICO’s financial capabilities/reach?

The PAC would like the Board to approve the PAC creating a proposal for the UU at Shelter Rock for their congregation to match the funds UUCSF allocates to HICO. The Shelter Rock congregation has increased their local giving in response to COVID and there may be some synergy with Veatch’s efforts designed to support LI. Again, the East End is usually overlooked in charitable efforts.

The other key institutions to approach are AFTEE (All for the East End) and the LI Community Foundation (LICF). The PAC will approach both organizations. With the UUCSF commitment to HICO’s future, LICF should be able to steer us to larger donors who may be a source of funds.

HICO has been set-up to accept donations. The PAC will highlight this ability at the upcoming Meet and Greet on January 16th.

Respectively Submitted to the Board of Trustees on 1/4/2022

Proposal Assessment Committee: Jeanne Hoenig, David Holstein, Celia Josephson, Lora Tucker

