

# **Respect Life Grants**

## **General Guidelines**

### **Calendar Year 2025**

## **General Description**

The Diocesan Respect Life Fund is made possible by the annual Respect Life Collection, held at parishes in the Diocese of Richmond since 1975. The Respect Life Fund supports activities that protect and promote the dignity of human life from conception to natural death.

Grants are made each year to Catholic parishes and Catholic organizations to support Respect Life activities throughout the Diocese. The parish or Catholic organization must be directly involved in the activities or work being supported. All Diocesan Respect Life funds must be used during the calendar year for which the grant was approved. Funds do not carry over into the next year, any unused funds must be refunded.

## **Who is eligible for Diocesan Respect Life grants?**

Applicants must be Catholic parishes or Catholic organizations within the Diocese of Richmond engaged in Respect Life activities that promote the Church's teaching of the inviolability of the life and dignity of each individual human person.

## **What activities are funded with Diocesan Respect Life grants?**

While the Church's teaching on the dignity of human life encompasses a countless number of issues, the Diocese of Richmond Respect Life grants are generally provided for activities geared towards direct services, education, and advocacy to alleviate or end threats to human life at its most vulnerable stages.

Activities must be consistent with the moral teachings of the Church. Parishes can redirect funds towards a secondary organization only when there is a direct link between the parish and the secondary organization, and when the funds are used to support an activity of the parish that assists the secondary organization.

## **Use of grant funds may include:**

- Services that support people in making life-affirming decisions when confronted with unexpected pregnancies or end-of-life decision making
- Pregnancy counseling and provision of alternatives to abortion
- Support for post-abortion healing
- Public information and education regarding Respect Life issues
- Liturgical and prayer experiences that foster a greater awareness of Respect Life issues
- Support for legislative advocacy opportunities (e.g., March for Life)
- Mental health resources and education, including suicide prevention and awareness
- Resources, programming, and other opportunities for those with cognitive, intellectual, or physical disabilities

## **Additional Considerations**

- If funding is being requested to support a speaker event or engagement in the Diocese, Speaker Approval must be initiated prior to the submission of a Respect Life Grant and applicants must include a program description of the event. Requests for speaker events will only be approved on the condition of receiving Speaker Approval.
- Only one application per parish or organization will be accepted.

## **How does a parish or organization apply for funds?**

To be considered for a grant, the attached application must be fully completed and submitted by November 15, 2024 to the office of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, by mail or email. The application will also be posted on the Diocesan website under Directory and Propagation of the Faith and Office of Social Ministries and Respect Life. Also, if you received a grant in the prior year the required final report must have been submitted.

Please note: Grant eligibility does not guarantee the receipt of funds, but rather that you are eligible to apply. Actual funding will be based on need, use, and total grant funds available. Funding depends on the number of applications received.

Grant awards will be announced by December 28, 2024 with funding to recipients available by the third week of January 2025. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Deacon Bob Young at 804-622-5258 or by email at [byoung@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:byoung@richmonddiocese.org).