

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl Grants

General Guidelines

General Description

CRS Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. It was created in 1975 with the goal of entering into solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas through prayer, fasting, learning, and giving. Many parishes in the Diocese of Richmond participate in CRS Rice Bowl and, through their generosity and support, help to fund CRS in their global initiatives. Seventy-five percent of Rice Bowl donations support CRS development projects throughout the world, while the remaining 25% funds local programs and initiatives that animate the values of CRS in the Diocese of Richmond.

Grants are made each year to Catholic parishes, schools, and Catholic organizations to support projects that save lives and alleviate suffering, accelerate the end of poverty, and cultivate just and peaceful societies, always placing the dignity of the human person in the center. The parish, school, or Catholic organization must be directly involved in the activities or work being supported. All Diocesan Rice Bowl funds must be used during the calendar year for which the grant was approved. Funds do not carry over into the next year and any unused funds must be refunded.

Amount of Diocesan Rice Bowl grants?

Applicants may apply for a grant from \$500 to \$5,000. Any parish who applies for funding is strongly encouraged to participate in CRS Rice Bowl during Lent. **Parishes who do not participate in Rice Bowl will only be eligible for up to \$500 of funding.** If you did not participate in the prior year Rice Bowl program, you may provide proof of your intent to participate during Lent. Please click [here](#) to order your materials.

What activities are funded with Diocesan Rice Bowl grants?

To better align our local CRS Rice Bowl initiative with CRS 2030 vision and strategy (learn more at <http://www.crs.org/about/agency-strategy>), we are providing funding that addresses one or more of the following goal areas:

- **Promoting Peaceful and Just Societies** (examples: restorative justice and nonviolence training)
- **Providing Housing and Social Services** (examples: overnight shelters and counseling)
- **Care for Creation** (examples: community gardens and climate justice initiatives)
- **Economic Empowerment** (examples: fair/ethical trade, social entrepreneurship programs, and financial management courses)
- **Youth Engagement** (examples: service projects, Catholic Social Teaching education, and skill-building)
- **Giving Food to the Hungry** (examples: food pantries, soup kitchens, and nutrition education courses)

**If you already applied or will apply for funding through the Fuel and Hunger grant, we ask that you do not apply for funding in this category.*

Additional Considerations

- Only one application per parish or group will be accepted.

How does a parish, school, or organization apply for funds?

To be considered for a grant the attached application (application will also be posted on the Diocesan Website under Directory and Propagation of the Faith and the Office of Social Ministries and Respect Life) must be fully completed and submitted by November 15th to the office of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, by mail or email. 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 the end of December with funding to recipients available by the second week of January. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Deacon Bob Young at 804-622-5258 or by email at byoung@richmonddiocese.org.