



Diocese of Arlington

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Program

Information and Eligibility for Diocesan Grants



CRS Rice Bowl is sponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), our Catholic international relief agency, and by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. This Lenten program of prayer, learning and almsgiving is conducted in Catholic parishes and schools throughout the diocese. Seventy-five percent of funds raised is used for CRS' international development projects. Twenty-five percent is distributed within the diocese for efforts to combat hunger and poverty.

Two different grants make up the Diocesan Rice Bowl Grant Program: Comprehensive Nutrition Grants and Food Distribution Grants. Grants are funded by alms collected during the previous Lent (i.e., Lent 2019 alms fund 2020 grants). For additional information, please contact crcsccd@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-3839.

INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO BOTH GRANTS

General Information

- The grant year runs from January 1 through December 31.
- Grant applications for the following year are available by the end of June.
- Submission deadline for projects to be funded in calendar year 2020 is October 1, 2019.
- Grants are announced and checks issued in early January.
- Grants are made on an annual basis and do not imply subsequent years' funding.
- Grantees will file an interim report with the next year's grant application, or, if not applying for repeat funding, by the last business day of September. A final accounting of expenses is due by January 15 following the close of the grant year.

Eligibility

- Eligible projects will be sponsored by individuals, parishes, groups of parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic or non-Catholic organizations or others within the Diocese of Arlington whose goals and activities are consistent with those of the grant program and address hunger, nutrition or food insecurity.
- All project activities must take place within the Diocese of Arlington.
- Grantees' activities must be consistent with Catholic moral and social teaching and with 501(c)(3) rules regarding partisan political activity.
- Grantees must have either 501(c)(3) status or a sponsor to act as fiscal agent for receipt of funds. Checks cannot be made payable to an individual.
- Projects sponsored by Catholic parishes, parish organizations, groups of parishes or parish-connected schools must have approval of all pastors involved.

COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION GRANTS (GRANT MAXIMUM: \$3000)

Goals: *Comprehensive Nutrition Grants support activities that combat hunger and food insecurity by helping low-income individuals, families and communities to learn skills that will help them feed themselves or improve their nutritional health (e.g., sharing and community gardens; cooking, canning, nutrition classes), that increase their economic leverage to feed themselves (e.g., creation of food coops), or that otherwise advance longer-term solutions to hunger and food insecurity than simply the provision or distribution of food. Accordingly, this program does not fund food distribution activities.*

Guidelines (examples are by way of illustration only):

- ◆ Applications are encouraged for activities that:
 - » address ongoing obstacles to good nutrition and food availability – e.g., nutrition education for, efforts supporting the nutritional health of, low-income individuals, teens, parents, seniors, families or communities, and/or
 - » aim to improve the nutritional health of low-income mothers, infants and young children, and to reduce the obesity rate in this population, with long-term benefits for the entire family, and/or
 - » involve low-income persons themselves in increasing the availability of healthy foods and the improvement of nutritional health – e.g., establishment of food coops, gardens and other food sources that entail the participation of those in the low-income community, and/or
 - » contain an educational/motivational/support component to modify long-term behavior – e.g., how to prepare foods; activities and education aimed at breaking down cultural barriers to healthier eating; one-on-one support in-home or at project site, and/or
 - » involve and educate low-income teens and young adults.
- ◆ Projects that address food insecurity and nutritional challenges in rural parts of the diocese are particularly encouraged.
- ◆ Joint projects among parishes, schools, organizations, etc. are particularly encouraged.
- ◆ Preference will be given to projects that have potential to be ongoing and sustainable -- i.e., having plans for governance and decision-making (a board, steering committee or other body) and for leadership selection and replacement of outgoing leadership.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION GRANTS (GRANT MAXIMUM: \$2000)

Goals: *Food Distribution grants support food pantries and other projects that provide food, or resources to obtain food, for those experiencing hunger or food insecurity.*

Guidelines:

- ◆ In addition to food, grant funds may be awarded for the acquisition of equipment (e.g., refrigeration, shelving, etc.) that support pantry or food provision operations.
- ◆ Projects that address food insecurity in rural parts of the diocese are particularly encouraged.