



Diocese of Arlington

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Program

Criteria and Guidelines for Diocesan Grants

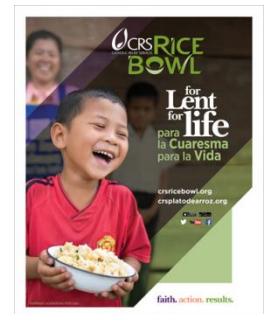


CRS Rice Bowl is sponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), our Catholic international relief agency, and by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. This Lenten program of prayer, learning and almsgiving is conducted in Catholic parishes and schools throughout the diocese. Seventy-five percent of funds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

Goals of the Diocesan Grant Program The Arlington Diocesan CRS Rice Bowl grant program awards funding for activities within the diocese to combat hunger and food insecurity and to improve nutritional health among low-income individuals, families and communities.

General Information

- The grant year runs from January 1 through December 31.
- Grants will be funded by alms collected during the previous Lent (e.g., Lent 2017 alms will fund grants given for calendar year 2018).
- Grant applications will be available in June 2017.
- Submission deadline for projects to be funded in calendar year 2018: October 2, 2017.
- Grants will be announced in mid-December, 2017.
- Checks will be issued in early January, 2018.
- Grant maximum: \$2500.



Grant Criteria

1. Funding eligibility:
 - a. 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.
 - b. All project activities must take place within the Diocese of Arlington.
 - c. Grantees' activities must be consistent with Catholic moral and social teaching and with 501(c)(3) rules regarding partisan political activity.
 - d. 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.
 - e. Activities that involve the provision or distribution of food are eligible, but projects that include activities illustrated in **Guidelines** section are encouraged.

2. Grants are made on an annual basis and do not imply subsequent years' funding.
3. Grantees will file an interim report by June 30 and a final report by December 15.
4. Projects sponsored by parishes, groups of parishes or parish-connected schools must have approval of all pastors involved.
5. Existing projects and activities are welcome and encouraged to apply.

Guidelines (examples are by way of illustration only)

1. Applications are encouraged for activities that:
 - a. address ongoing obstacles to good nutrition and food availability – *e.g.*, nutrition education for, efforts supporting the nutritional health of, low-income teens, parents, seniors, families and communities, and/or
 - b. 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
 - c. 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
 - d. contain an educational/motivational/support component, aimed at influencing 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
 - e. involve and educate low-income teens and young adults.
2. Projects that address food insecurity and nutritional challenges in rural parts of the diocese are particularly encouraged.
3. 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.

For further information, please contact Carla Walsh, Diocesan Coordinator for CRS, at cwalsh@ccda.net or 703-841-3839.