



Office of Social Concerns and Advocacy, Catholic Charities
Fall 2025 CRS Rice Bowl Mini-Grant Application and Guidelines
including Eligibility and Non-Eligibility Criteria

Office of Social Concerns & Advocacy
Catholic Charities
Diocese of Charlotte (CCDOC)
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Each Lent, parishes, schools and campus ministries of the Diocese of Charlotte participate in Rice Bowl, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) educational program of prayer, fasting, learning and giving. CRS Rice Bowl in the Diocese of Charlotte is coordinated by the Office of Social Concerns and Advocacy, Catholic Charities. From the funds obtained from the Rice Bowl collection, 75% goes to the CRS international headquarters in Baltimore, MD and is used to fund projects overseas. The remainder stays in the Diocese of Charlotte and enables Catholic Charities to offer Rice Bowl Mini-Grants to projects of Catholic entities of the Diocese of Charlotte fighting poverty and hunger locally. **Grant funded projects must:**

1. be carried out under the auspices of a Catholic entity of the Diocese of Charlotte, e.g., parish, school, ministry, a Catholic non-profit listed in the Official Catholic Directory and based in the Diocese of Charlotte. Applications must be signed by a pastor (for parish-based projects), principal (for schools) executive director (for Catholic non-profits), primary ministry director (for diocesan ministries) & by project contact person.
2. address local socio-economic issue related to poverty and hunger alleviation (e.g. food assistance, nutrition projects, poverty alleviation, economic empowerment). Funded efforts may include educational initiatives to raise awareness of issues associated with local poverty and hunger. The project can be part of a larger program.
3. operate in accord with Catholic Social Teaching (CST), summarized on page two of this grant document. In keeping with its mission and place as a ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte, Catholic Charities requires that grant funds not be used in ways that are contrary to the social and moral teaching of the Catholic Church.



Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. CRS alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 110 countries in five continents without regard to race, religion or nationality.

Please note: Only one grant **for up to \$1,000** will be awarded per Catholic entity per grant round. Entities which received a Spring 2025 CRS Rice Bowl Mini-Grant must wait until a Spring 2026 grant round to submit a new application. CRS Rice Bowl grant funding will be based on compatibility of grant proposal with the three above stated guidelines, total funds available, and number of applications received. Applicant entities which have not received CRS Rice Bowl grant funding in the past three years and applicant entities which demonstrate how receipt of CRS Rice Bowl grant funding will enhance their participation in the annual Lenten CRS Rice Bowl program, will receive priority funding.

Please note that completed and signed applications must be submitted by email by Friday, October 31, 2025 as a PDF document to jtPURELLO@CCDOC.ORG. Please direct questions via email to: Joseph T. Purello, Director, CCDOC Office of Social Concerns & Advocacy, Diocese of Charlotte.

Grant recipients should share news of the funded project and receipt of the grant in parish bulletins, school newsletters, etc. Brief mention of the work of Catholic Relief Services in such announcements is also requested. A short description of CRS is provided at left.

All grant recipients agree to submit a typewritten evaluation describing succinctly: a) the project and project accomplishments; b) how CRS MINI-GRANT funds were used to help meet the goals of the project; and c) plans for continuation of the project. Please feel free to send a sample of project photos and/or project news appearing in bulletins, local papers, etc. The evaluation is to be sent by the Project Contact Person to the Office of Social Concerns and Advocacy (to jtPURELLO@CCDOC.ORG) within one year of receipt of grant funds.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING - 7 Themes

Catholic Social Teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic Social Teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we wish to highlight seven of the key themes that are at the heart of Catholic social tradition.

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. Human life is threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to live and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice."¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

¹ Paul VI, *For the Celebration of the Day of Peace* (Rome: January 1, 1972).



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FALL 2025 CRS RICE BOWL MINI-GRANT APPLICATION

Please review grant guidelines and eligibility before completing this application. Grants will be awarded to projects of Diocese of Charlotte entities that address local poverty and hunger. Recipients of Spring 2025 CRS Rice Bowl Mini-Grants in Spring 2025 are not eligible to apply for a Fall 2025 CRS Rice Bowl Mini-Grant. Only one grant per Catholic entity applicant will be awarded per grant round.

Please print or type the information requested in Section I and III. Section II must be typed.
This application is available in WORD format upon request.

I. Parish/School/Ministry/Organization information:

| Name of entity submitting proposal | | Project Contact Person | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------|
| Name _____ | | Name _____ | |
| Address _____ | | Address _____ | |
| City _____ | | City _____ | |
| State _____ Zip _____ | | State _____ Zip _____ | |
| Telephone _____ | | Telephone _____ | |
| Website _____ | | Email _____ | |
| Name of project _____ | | | |
| Amount Requested _____ | | | |
| | | Yes | No |
| Does project conform with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (see page 2)? | | _____ | _____ |
| Has this project received grant funding from other Diocese of Charlotte sources? | | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| If "Yes", list relevant source of funds in Section III B of this application. | | | |

TWO Signatures Required – one from pastor, department director, or school principal; and one from project contact person

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| _____ Signature of pastor, ministry head, principal, exec. director | _____ Signature of project contact person |
| _____ Print name and position | _____ Print name and position |

II. On a maximum of two additional pages, please type the following information:

1. The **local problem addressed** by the grant **and specific activities** that will be undertaken.
2. The **timeline** for the project and **benefits** expected from the project (for the parish/school/organization).
3. The **specific ways** in which members of the local Catholic parish, school, campus ministry, and/or organization are involved in the project or will be incorporated into the project activities.
4. **Participation of applicant entity in CRS related activities**, especially the annual Lenten CRS Rice Bowl Collection, and how receipt of grant funding will impact and enhance that participation.

III. Budget for proposed project (please print or type)

In Section A below, please provide the budget for the proposed project, including showing how Rice Bowl grant funds will be used. In Section B below, please list other financial resources that will support the project. **Please note that budgetary information is requested only for the proposed project to be funded, not for the entire entity sponsoring the project.** Funds may not be used for salaries.

| | Project Budget | Amount of CRS Rice Bowl grant to be used |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|
| A. Project Expenses | | |
| 1. _____ | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| TOTAL | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |

B. Please list other financial grant resources for this project, including any funds from other Diocese of Charlotte grant sources, received, applied for, or pending in 2025.

| Source | Status* | Amount |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| _____ | _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| TOTAL OTHER PROJECT RESOURCES | | \$ _____ |

*Status (please indicate): R = Received, AF = Applied For

**PLEASE NOTE THAT
APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SENT BY EMAIL ONLY AS A PDF ATTACHMENT.**

Please email to jtpurello@ccdocr.org a PDF document that is comprised of the completed and signed pages 3 and 4 of this application, and no more than two supplementary pages responding to the four questions in Section II, Page 3. The completed application will therefore consist of **one PDF document totally no more than 4 pages.** The application must be sent to the email above by **Friday, October 31, 2025.** Please do not send supplementary materials. All applications received by the deadline will be acknowledged as received by an email sent to the Project Contact Person by Tuesday, November 4.

Notifications of grant decisions will be made on Friday, Nov. 21, 2025.