

**Department of Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown
CRS Rice Bowl Grant Application
Criteria and Guidelines
2026**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The CRS Rice Bowl Grant application form must be used when submitting your request. Organizations interested in receiving funds are required to file grant applications with the Diocese of Youngstown. Decisions on funding will be made within 60 days of receipt of your application. Grant amounts range from \$500.00 - \$5,000.00. Funds are awarded on a one-year basis. Organizations must complete an application each year they wish to apply for funds.

The CRS Rice Bowl Grant Program is made possible by the generosity of the Catholic faithful in the Diocese of Youngstown, whose donations to the Rice Bowl program alleviate hunger and poverty, around the globe and here in the Diocese.

CRS Rice Bowl funded programs enable people of all races, creeds, geographic regions and backgrounds to work together to eliminate hunger and food poverty in our local communities.

BACKGROUND

CRS Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official overseas international relief and development agency of the United States Bishops. It was created in 1975 with the goal of entering into solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas through prayer, fasting, learning, and giving. This Lenten program is conducted in Catholic parishes and schools throughout the Diocese of Youngstown. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the funds raised are sent to CRS for international development projects. Locally, twenty-five percent (25%) of CRS Rice Bowl funds are retained to fund local programs and initiatives that address hunger and poverty within the Diocese of Youngstown.

CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

Qualifying Criteria and Guidelines for Applicants

1. The project for which the Applicant is requesting funds must be operated within the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Youngstown.
2. The organization applying must qualify as a tax-exempt entity as evidenced by providing IRS 501(c)(3) certification.
3. Applicant organizations must not participate in or promote activities that contradict the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church and must in no way work against the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' priorities to defend human life and dignity, strengthen family life and the institution of marriage, and foster diversity. For example, applicant organizations that support or promote same-sex marriage, discrimination, capital punishment, abortion, euthanasia, or punitive measures towards immigrants are not eligible for funding.
4. The project requesting funds should make an immediate impact to alleviate hunger within the Diocese of Youngstown.
5. The prospective grantee has not received a Rice Bowl Grant in the same calendar year.

6. Positive consideration will be given to organizations that create or strengthen existing links to dioceses, parishes, religious communities, priests, deacons, and religious as well as Catholic Charities, schools, and other ministries. Organizations should consider how their activities reach out and involve the Catholic community.
7. Positive consideration will be given to organizations that generate cooperation among and within diverse groups, in the interest of a more integrated and mutually understanding society.
8. Positive consideration will be given to organizations that directly benefit a relatively large number of people, rather than a few individuals.

Disqualifying Criteria for Applicants

1. The applicant is an organization that is exempt from federal income tax under a section of the Internal Revenue Code *other than* section 501(c)(3).
2. The applicant is an organization that engages in political campaign intervention prohibited under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
3. The applicant is an organization that promotes or participates in activities that support principles contrary to Catholic Teaching or work against the USCCB's priorities to defend the life and dignity of all human persons, to strengthen family life and the institution of marriage, and to nurture diversity.
4. The project is for advocacy efforts where only staff, a few individuals, or middle to upper-income people are speaking for a particular low-income constituency without the direct involvement and leadership of low-income individuals.
5. The applicant is an organization controlled by governmental (federal, state, local) bodies.
6. The applicant's project is a research project, survey, planning and feasibility study, etc.
7. The applicant is an individually owned, for-profit business.
8. The applicant is an organization that would use CRS money for re-granting purposes or to fund other organizations.
9. The prospective grantee has already received a CRS Rice Bowl Grant in the current calendar year.

**Complete and submit all applications to:
Department of Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown
Attn: Jennifer Lucarelli
144 West Wood Street
Youngstown, Ohio 44503**

Or email to: charities@youngstowndiocese.org

For questions about the application or grant process, please contact Jennifer Lucarelli at (330) -744-8451 or by email at jlucarelli@youngstowndiocese.org.

CRS Rice Bowl Grant Application for 2026

Please fill out all of the entries below and indicate where not applicable.
Incomplete applications will be ineligible for funding.

Please complete and return by USPS mail or email to charities@youngstowndiocese.org

DEADLINE TO APPLY: JULY 15, 2026

- 1) Organization Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
County _____ Phone _____
Contact Person _____
Title _____
Email address _____
If Applicable: Parish/School Affiliation _____
Pastor/Principal _____
Is the organization tax exempt, nonprofit? Yes _____ No _____

- 2) Does your parish/school participate in CRS Rice Bowl Collections? Yes _____ No _____

- 3) Name of the project to be funded:

- 4) Amount Requested \$ _____

- 5) Has this project previously received CRS Rice Bowl funding? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, please list the previous years and amounts

- 6) What is the primary funding area for this project? _____

- 7) Description of the project. Please provide as much detail as possible and specifically describe efforts to alleviate poverty and hunger within your community. *(use as much space as needed for project description to provide details)*

8) Parish and community involvement. Does the project provide opportunities for service, advocacy, learning, communal prayer/reflection, fellowship, etc. among parishioners and/or community members? Please be descriptive and describe collaborative efforts.

9) Financial overview of the project (no more than 200 words):

Use the attached budget worksheet to explain income and expenses.

Explain below how a CRS Rice Bowl grant would benefit the project this year?

10) Please submit the following attachments with your completed application:

- 501C(3) determination letter, if available
- Project Budget Worksheet
- List of organization leadership/board members, if applicable
- Any other supportive brochures, articles, photos, if applicable

Name of Applicant _____

Position/Title _____

Representative of Project's signature _____ Date _____

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DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN
CRS RICE BOWL BUDGET WORKSHEET – 2026

Organization Name: _____

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>

<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>

NET AMOUNT (Income – Expense)