

2025 Giving Circle Toolkit



CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Table of Contents

ABOUT	page 3
GUIDELINES	
Overview	page 4
Eligibility	page 4
Grant Categories	page 5
Funding Priorities	page 6
Other Considerations	page 6
PITCH DAY	
Overview	page 7
Review Process	page 7
HOW TO APPLY	page 8
CALENDAR	page 9

About

The **Giving Circle** is an innovative program from the **Catholic Community Foundation** designed to leverage the input of the community in worthy grant requests. Inspired by a new generation of philanthropists and donors, each **Giving Circle Member** is an active participant in the community grantmaking process. By joining together, members help the Giving Circle magnify philanthropy into more impactful grantmaking opportunities.

Since 2015, the Giving Circle has awarded \$1.2 million in grants to over 64 local Arizona organizations.

The Giving Circle granted out a total of \$144,323 to nine organizations in 2024.

Each member of the Giving Circle invests their own philanthropic dollars into the program through annual membership dues. This, combined with disbursements from the Catholic Community Foundation's Forever Funds, collectively fund the Giving Circle annual grants.

On an annual basis, members come together during **Pitch Day** to hear the needs of the community before casting their votes on how grant funds will be dispersed and allocated.

Guidelines

Overview

The Giving Circle awards grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations. Qualifying nonprofit organizations who meet the criteria of the application process will receive the opportunity to “pitch” their granting needs directly to Giving Circle Members. After all “pitching” is completed, Giving Circle Members will vote and decide which organizations will receive funding.

Eligibility

All Giving Circle grant applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The organization must be a 501(c)(3) public charity registered with the Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- The organization must serve primarily within the geographic region of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, which includes Maricopa, Mohave, Yavapai, and Coconino counties (excluding the territorial boundaries of the Navajo Indian Reservation), as well as the Gila River Indian Reservation in Pinal County.
- The organization’s values must align with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Grant recipients of the Giving Circle in the 2024 fiscal year are not eligible to apply in the 2025 fiscal year. Recipients must take a one-year hiatus before reapplying to the Giving Circle for a new grant request.

Grant Categories

The Giving Circle awards grants in the following categories:

COMMUNITY

The Community Forever Fund supports organizations wanting to make capital improvements to their infrastructure or programs that enrich educational opportunities, leadership, promotion of Christian virtue, and academic enhancement.

MUSIC

Granting opportunities are also available through the Community Forever Fund for organizations looking to make improvements to their music ministry. The Music subcategory of Community is specific to music-related improvements or programs only.

LIFE

The Life Forever Fund supports organizations dedicated to the protection of human life from conception to natural death. Funding through the Life Forever Fund is also available to organizations that promote mental health awareness and action and those that help overcome addiction.

CARE

The Care Forever Fund supports organizations that focus on the corporal works of mercy. These include outreach and direct solutions to the issues of poverty, food insecurity, basic medical care, and preventative health and wellness (education, access to resources, and recreation/physical activity).

Funding Priorities

Presently, priority is being given to grant applicants who can show:

- The request has a well-planned approach to addressing an identified need with clearly stated goals, objectives, and means of measuring outcomes.
- The request helps fulfill the primary mission of the organization.
- The request is likely to continue and expand after the grant period and become self-sustaining.
- The request provides innovative and creative solutions and demonstrates efficiency in its use of funds.
- The request must support the mission of the Church and its ministries.

Other Considerations

The grants process will be a two-phase process.

Phase 1 is the Pre-Application phase. Organizations must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)/online pre-application to the Foundation summarizing their grant, including a statement of need, methodology, and other funding sources.

Phase 2 is Pitch Day. Only those organizations which submit a Pre-Application that most closely align with the Giving Circle funding priorities for the year will be invited to complete a full grant application and participate in Pitch Day.

- The project should be fully funded within one year of the grant award.
- Grant monies must be used for the purpose for which funds were applied for and approved.
- Organizations are limited to one grant proposal for consideration during a single grant cycle.
- Grantmaking cannot focus on any of the following areas: debt reduction, fundraising initiatives, galas or events, scholarships or tuition assistance, and operating costs (i.e. administrative fees/costs and salary)
- Organizations must complete and return a Grant Agreement before funds are released from the Catholic Community Foundation.
- Organizations must complete and submit an Impact Report for active grants before applying for a new grant.

Pitch Day

Overview

25 organizations will be selected from the pool of 2025 applicants to “pitch” their funding needs to Giving Circle Members who will then vote on which organizations will receive funding and how much funding they will receive. (It’s like “Shark Tank.”)

Review Process

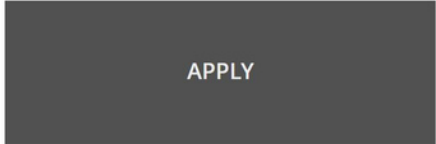
Here are the factors we consider for selecting 25 organizations for Pitch Day:

- Is the organization located in the the Diocese of Phoenix?
- How much federal funding is provided to the organization?
- How dependent is the organization on receiving a grant?
- Has the organization received a grant in the past?
- Has the organization pitched in the past?
- Does the organization’s values align with the Catholic faith?
- How long has the organization been serving?
- Is the project an urgent need within our community, relative to the other applications received?

7

How to Apply

Visit ccfphx.org/apply-for-a-grant and click on the button on the webpage:



You will need to login by creating an account or using an existing one.

Email Address*

Password*

[Log On](#) [Create New Account](#)

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Once logged in, you will need to complete the **PRE-APPLICATION**.

1) Organization name

2) Grant purpose

3) Grant amount requested

Calendar

July 1, 2024

Giving Circle Toolkit available
Pre-applications open

November 30, 2024

Pre-application deadline

December 6, 2024

Notification of pre-application acceptance

January 3, 2025

Full application deadline

January 8, 2025

Pitch Day Workshop

January 16, 2025

Pitch Day

January 31, 2025

Voting deadline for Giving Circle Members

February 18, 2025

Award Ceremony

Become A Member

Each Giving Circle member is an active participant in the community grant-making process.

The members cast a vote in the grant awarding and have an opportunity to connect with grant recipients.

Each member of the Giving Circle invests their own philanthropic dollars into the program to collectively multiply the impact of their giving in our community.

The Giving Circle is a great way to faithfully and financially support local organizations.

Visit ccfphx.org/giving-circle to learn more!

For questions and other inquiries:



480-651-8806



givingcircle@ccfphx.org