

2027 Giving Circle Toolkit



For questions and other inquiries:



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givingcircle@ccfphx.org



ccfphx.org/who-we-serve/apply-for-a-grant



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July 1, 2026

Giving Circle Toolkit available

February 20, 2027

Pitch Day in the morning

August 1, 2026

Applications accepted

February 28, 2027

Voting deadline for
Giving Circle Members

November 20, 2026

Application deadline

March 2027

Grants Awarded

December & January

Applications reviewed - top 20 selected



About the Giving Circle



The Giving Circle offers a unique opportunity to join a community of individuals dedicated to making a lasting impact through faith-based philanthropy. Hosted by the Catholic Community Foundation, the Giving Circle brings people together to pool resources, learn about local nonprofit needs, and take an active role in awarding grants funded through the Foundation's long-term endowment programs.

Each year, members of the Giving Circle hear presentations from nonprofit organizations applying for support. These organizations share their missions, goals, and how they intend to use the funds to serve our community directly. After listening and reflecting, Giving Circle members vote on which organizations will receive grants, helping the Foundation discern the allocation of the funding available through our Forever Funds endowments.

Whether you're passionate about making a difference, interested in learning how charitable funding works, or want to participate in a hands-on, community-driven process, the Giving Circle offers a meaningful way to give and witness the impact of generosity on local organizations.

By participating you become part of a network of faith-filled individuals helping to transform lives and strengthen our community through thoughtful giving.

Join the Giving Circle

If you would like to learn more about the different membership options for the Giving Circle and share in this granting process, please visit our website: <https://ccfphx.org/who-we-serve/giving-circle>



Giving Circle Grant Opportunities



Overview

The Giving Circle awards grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations. Qualifying nonprofit organizations who meet the criteria of the application process (see page 5) 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.

Grant Categories

Care - The Care Forever Fund supports organizations that focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy. These include outreach and direct solutions to issues such as poverty, food insecurity, basic medical care, and preventive health and wellness (education, access to resources, and recreation/physical activity).

Community - The Community Forever Fund supports organizations that want to make capital improvements to their infrastructure or programs that enrich educational opportunities, promote leadership, foster Christian virtue, and enhance academic outcomes.

Life - The Life Forever Fund supports organizations dedicated to protecting 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, as well as those that help individuals overcome addiction.

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.



Examples from last year's recipients

Care

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church received \$25,000 to continue serving 1400-1500 meals per month to the 18,500 people served in their community.

Mission of Mercy was awarded \$15,000 to support patient visits with prescription medications, medical supplies, and clinic equipment.

Community

Queen of Peace Catholic School received a grant of \$35,000 to make capital improvements to enhance the security of their campus.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church was awarded \$35,000 to complete needed renovations to two existing bathrooms and an adjacent corridor.

Life

Hope Pregnancy Resource Center received \$12,000 to enhance their online presence to ensure that women searching online for abortion centers will come across their page first, in the hopes of providing alternative solutions as the only pregnancy center in Flagstaff.

Christ the Child Society of Phoenix was granted \$15,000 to procure items for children care packages contained in backpacks and gym bags.

Music

FiAt Productions was granted \$35,000 to make critical upgrades to their music and sound technology, to better deliver professional-quality audio for their performances.

St. John Bosco Catholic School received \$20,500 to expand and sustain their elementary music and choir program.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church was awarded \$15,000 to assist with the replacement of the ambo microphone and the installation of a new speaker system.



Eligibility



All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant organization must be a 501(c)(3) public charity registered with the Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- The applicant 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 applicant organization's values must align with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Grant recipients of the Giving Circle must take a one-year hiatus before reapplying to the Giving Circle for a new grant request.
- 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.
- Applicant 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).
- Grant recipient organizations must complete and return a Grant Agreement before funds are released from the Catholic Community Foundation.
- Grant recipient organizations must complete and submit an Impact Report for active grants before applying for a new grant.



Funding Priorities



Priority is 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.

Application Phases

PHASE 1- APPLICATION

Organizations must submit an online application to the Foundation, summarizing their grant request.

PHASE 2 - REVIEW

Lifetime Giving Circle Members will review and score applications.

The rubric will be based on the following questions:

1. Is the organization located in the Diocese of Phoenix?
2. How much federal funding is provided to the organization?
3. How dependent is the organization on receiving a grant?
4. Has the organization received a grant in the past?
5. Has the organization pitched in the past?
6. Do the organization's values align with the Catholic Faith?
7. How long has the organization been serving?
8. Is the project an urgent need within our community, relative to the other applications received?



Application Phases (cont.)

PHASE 3 - PITCH DAY

After the evaluation process, twenty applicants will be invited to Pitch Day, which is an opportunity for applicant organizations to share about their proposal and for the community to learn about the work the Lord is doing through them.

Each organization will have two minutes to share its mission, the need it seeks to address, and the impact this grant would make. Presentations should be made without props, video, or presentation slides, allowing the organization's story and witness to speak for itself.

Friends, benefactors, and members of the community are more than welcome to attend in support of the presenting organizations and to learn about the other ministries seeking to meet the needs in the Diocese of Phoenix.

PHASE 4 - VOTING

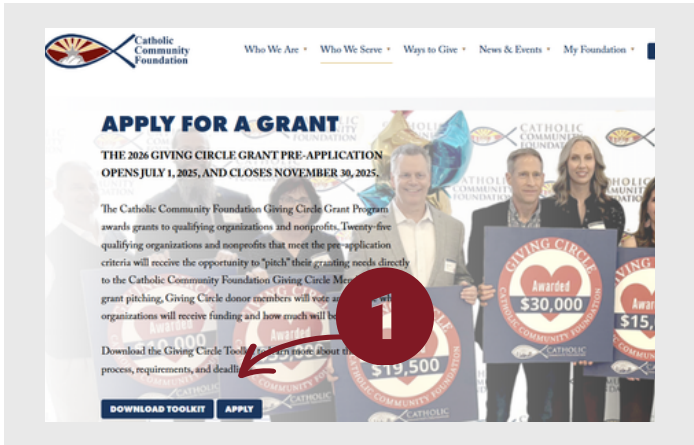
Following the presentations, Giving Circle members will enter a time of prayerful reflection as they consider each proposal and discern how best to steward the resources entrusted to the Foundation's Forever Funds. They will cast their vote accordingly.

Once voting has concluded, usually about a week after Pitch Day, the votes will be tallied, and grant awards will be distributed to the organizations who received the most votes.

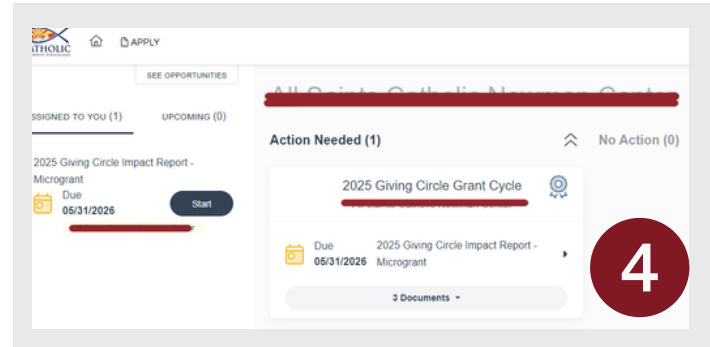
The Giving Circle's task is not to judge the value of one ministry over another, but to prayerfully discern how to allocate limited resources in a way that serves the greatest good. Every applicant is responding to a genuine need, working each day to make a difference in the lives of those they serve. We are deeply inspired each year by the way these organizations share the love of Christ in their communities. Our goal is to continue growing the Giving Circle so that, together, we can increase the amount and number of our grants each year to meet the ever growing need.



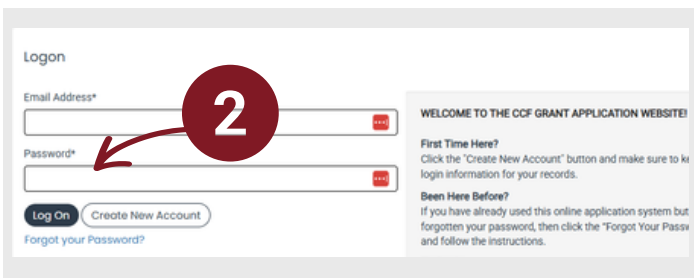
How to Apply



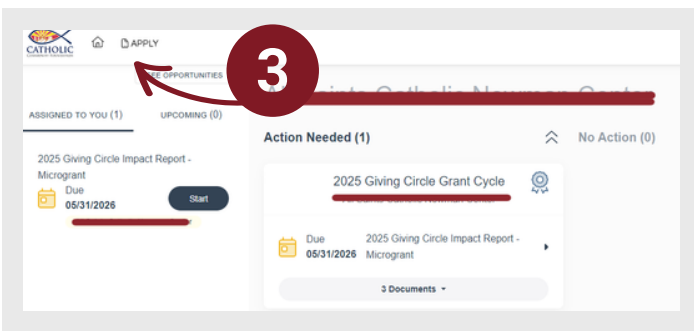
1. Visit ccfphx.org/who-we-serve/apply-for-a-grant and click the "apply" button.



4. The Applicant Dashboard is where you can also view active and historical requests.



2. First-time visitors: Click "Create New Account" and save this login information for your records. Returning visitors: Enter your email and password information and click "Log On."



3. On the Applicant Dashboard Page, click the "Apply" icon (top left corner) to start a new application, view your submitted applications, or edit "in-work" draft applications.



Important Note!

All emails are sent from administrator@grantinterface.com or givingcircle@ccfphx.org.

Please be sure to add these email addresses to your contact list to ensure timely communication.



Information Needed for the Application



To help make the application process as smooth as possible, we recommend gathering the following information ahead of time. While applications can be saved and returned to later, having these materials prepared in advance will make completing the application much easier.

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

- Mission statement
- Brief description of the organization's mission, ministries, programs, or services
- Description of how the organization's mission and values align with the teachings of the Catholic Church

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- Total revenue and total expenses for the most recently completed fiscal year
- Percentage of funding received from federal sources during the most recently completed fiscal year
- Percentage of funding received from state sources during the most recently completed fiscal year

GRANT PROPOSAL

- The grant category that best aligns with your proposed project or program
- The amount of funding requested
- The estimated number of individuals served annually through the project or program
- A project budget and timeline for implementation and completion
- Prepare a narrative describing the need or challenge the organization seeks to address, the proposed program or project, the methods that will be used to achieve its goals, how available resources will be utilized, any innovative or collaborative approaches, and the measurable outcomes the organization is committed to achieving in to further its mission

DOCUMENTATION

- IRS Determination Letter
- Current list of Board of Directors, Advisory Board, Pastoral Council, or other appropriate governing body
- Organization Logo

