

2026 Giving Circle Toolkit



For questions and other inquiries:



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



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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.



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, ensuring that those with the most compelling and immediate needs are supported.

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. It's not just about funding, it's about shared values, collective generosity, and witnessing how generosity becomes action.

By participating, you're not only contributing resources—you're becoming a part of something bigger: a network of faith-filled individuals helping to transform lives and strengthen our community through thoughtful giving.



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 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

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.

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 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.

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).



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 I - Application

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

Phase 2 - Review

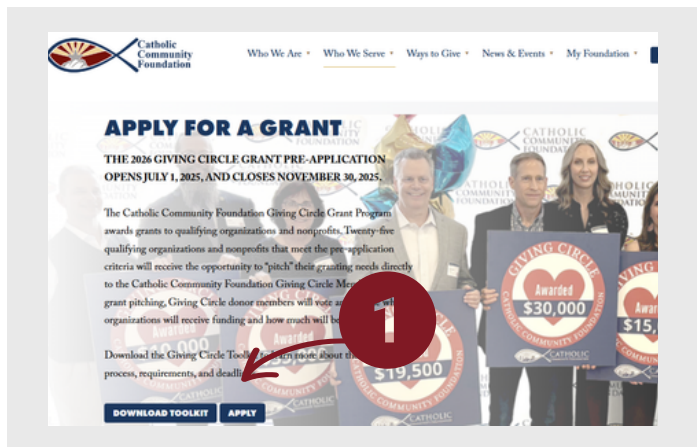
Lifetime Giving Circle Members will review and score applications. Twenty applicants closely aligned with the Giving Circle's funding priorities will be invited to attend Pitch Day. After pitching, voting results will be reviewed and selected organizations will be granted funds.

The rubric will be based on the following questions:

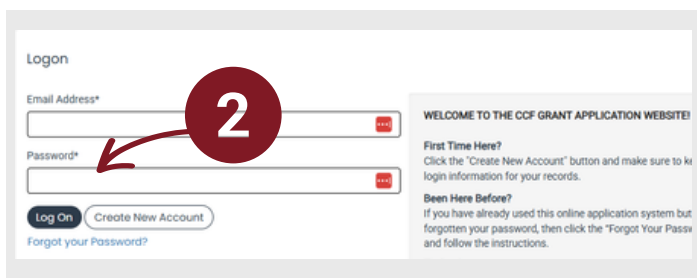
1. Is the organization located in the Diocese of Phoenix?
2. How much federal funding is provided to the organization?
3. How dependent is the organization on receiving a grant?
4. Has the organization received a grant in the past?
5. Has the organization pitched in the past?
6. Do the organization's 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?



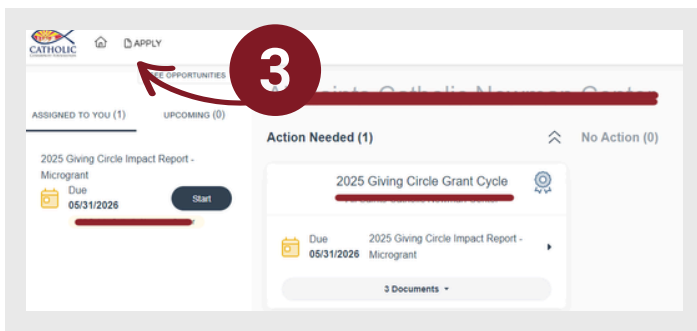
How to Apply



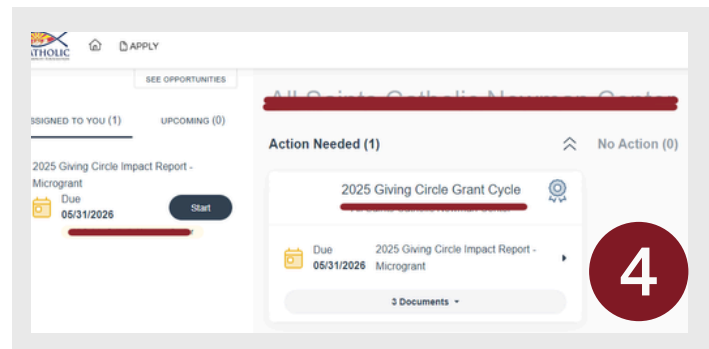
1. Visit ccfphx.org/who-we-serve/apply-for-a-grant and click the "apply" button.




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.



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



Important Note!

All emails are sent from administrator@grantinterface.com.

Please be sure to add this email address to your contact list to ensure timely communication.



Important Giving Circle Dates



July 1, 2025

Giving Circle Toolkit available

September 1, 2025

Applications accepted

November 30, 2025

Application deadline

December 2025

Applications reviewed - top 20 selected

January 15, 2026

Pitch Day Workshop

January 22, 2026

Pitch Day

January 31, 2026

Voting deadline for Giving Circle Members

February 17, 2026

Award Ceremony

