



Catholic Social Ministry Grant 2026 Guidelines and Criteria

Who Can Apply?

- 🕯️ **Catholic nonprofit organizations** listed in The Official Catholic Directory which are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code and serve people within the 13 counties of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie. Organizations must have programs supporting one or more of the following areas: family ministries, justice and peace, respect life, parish social ministry, ministry with persons with disabilities, natural family planning.
- 🕯️ **Diocese of Erie offices** with ministry programs supporting one or more of the following areas: family ministries, justice and peace, respect life, parish social ministry, ministry with persons with disabilities, natural family planning.
- 🕯️ **Catholic Parishes** with ministry programs supporting one or more of the following areas: family ministries, justice and peace, respect life, parish social ministry, ministry with persons with disabilities, natural family planning.

****All organizations must provide their unique Federal EIN when completing a grant application.**

Funding Categories

Funding will be considered for projects which support the above-listed ministries, embrace, and align with Catholic social teaching (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching), and focus on one or more of the following (listed in no particular order of priority):

- 🕯️ Counseling services for the poor
- 🕯️ Marriage and family life support programs
- 🕯️ Promoting better human relationships and a sense of community
- 🕯️ Care of the elderly
- 🕯️ Services for the poor and elderly
- 🕯️ Emergency services for the poor

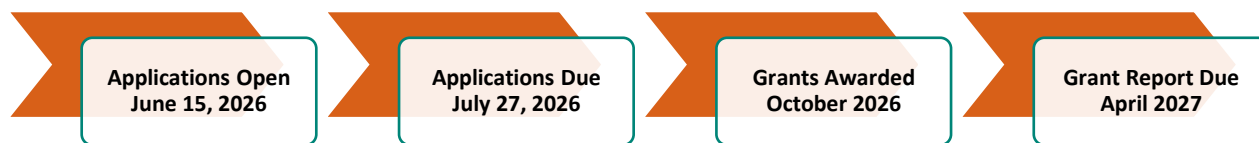
Projects must benefit people within the 13 counties of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie.

Within the above listed funding categories, priority is given to:

- 🕯️ Projects that reach a large number of people.
- 🕯️ Projects that have multiple funding sources and/or demonstrate sustainability when funding ends. The Foundation seeks to invest in the long-term viability of projects and programs.
- 🕯️ Projects that represent a well-planned approach to solving a problem and delivering services.
- 🕯️ Projects that help strengthen the family and promote a sense of community.
- 🕯️ Organizations who have not received a Catholic Social Ministry grant in the last funding cycle.

The minimum grant award is \$500, and the maximum grant award is \$15,000.

2026 Catholic Social Ministry Grant Cycle



Requirements

- 🕯 Organization leadership (Pastor, Executive Director, etc.) or diocesan office supervisor must approve project and grant request by signing the project endorsement form included in the application.
- 🕯 Funds are released to the organization, parish, or diocese only with a signed grant agreement on file at the Foundation.
- 🕯 A follow-up grant report from the grantee is required for every grant awarded by the Foundation.

Funding Exclusions**

- 🕯 Endowments or individuals
- 🕯 Existing staff salaries
- 🕯 Anything completed, purchased, or accomplished prior to date grants are awarded.
- 🕯 Annual fund-raising events or drives
- 🕯 Debt reduction
- 🕯 Capital campaigns or projects

**This is not an exhaustive list. Catholic Foundation staff, grant committee, and Board of Directors will determine inclusions and exclusions.

How to Apply

Please review the guidelines and funding categories outlined and consider if your project or program is a good fit. If so, you may submit your application online through the Catholic Foundation website: www.MyCatholicFoundation.org.

Questions? Contact Julia Cooney, Operations Director, at 814-824-1253 or jcooney@cfnwpa.org.