



Guidelines for 2021 Giving Circle Grants

OVERVIEW

The Giving Circle is an innovative program from the Catholic Community Foundation. Inspired by donors, the Circle is unique - each member is an active participant in the community grantmaking process. By joining together, the Circle magnifies philanthropy into more impactful grantmaking opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY

- 501(c)(3) public charity registered with the Federal Internal Revenue Service.
- Serves 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), and the Gila River Indian Reservation in Pinal County.
- The organization's values align with the teachings of the Church.
- **Recipients of 2020 grants must take a one-year hiatus before they may reapply to The Giving Circle for a new grant request.**

AREAS OF GRANTMAKING

Grants, through The Giving Circle program, are currently offered in the following five areas:

1. **Teacher's Choice & Youth Programs** + Supports Catholic Education by awarding classroom and school projects as proposed by Catholic high school and elementary school teachers. Funding is also available to projects aimed at youth in the areas of creating enriched educational opportunities, leadership, promotion of Christian virtue, and academic enhancement.
2. **Sanctity of Life** + Funding opportunities for ministries and nonprofit organizations dedicated to the protection of human life - from conception to natural death.
3. **Work Among the Poor** + Enables support for the advancement of various solutions to the issues of poverty, such as homelessness, lack of basic medical care, and provides for outreach and direct care for the poor.
4. **Health & Wellness** + Funding will be awarded to programs serving vulnerable populations and addressing any of the following needs: food insecurity and/or access to healthy foods, preventative health and wellness, health education, access to health resources, and recreation and physical activity.
5. **Arts** + Funding will be awarded to programs that serve Catholic populations and/or celebrate Catholic spirituality through art in the following areas: arts in the schools, classical music instruments, Catholic Church art, and musical instrument needs, and public art with a Catholic/spiritual theme.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Decisions on the thrust of the Circle's grant program are guided by an evolving assessment of community needs.

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

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

TYPES OF GRANTS

- Program
- Capital
- Collaborations
- Challenge or matching

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- The grants process will be a 2-phase process. Phase I is the Letter of Inquiry (LOI) phase, where organizations may submit a 500-word proposal to the Foundation summarizing their grant, including a statement of need, methodology, and other funding sources. A 30-second video explaining this is also required. Only those organizations which submit LOI's 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, Phase 2.
- 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 will focus on the listed funding priorities versus areas such as tuition assistance, annual fund-raising initiatives and/or debt reduction.
- 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.