



Grant Criteria

The Women's Philanthropic Giving Circle (WPGC) is a diverse group of women who altruistically serve with purpose, impact, connection and joy strengthening our community through values-based strategic, engaged and collective philanthropy. Taking inspiration from Mary, mother of our Savior, we proclaim "Yes" to God's call to active works of charity as witnesses of faith and hope.

Membership donations are pooled into the Women's Philanthropic Giving Circle Donor Advised Fund at The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida and invested for growth in a Catholic-compliant investment portfolio. Funds are distributed to address community needs through our annual grant-making process.

Grants are awarded to Catholic-compliant non-profit organizations that serve the spiritual or corporal needs of the people of Central Florida.

Geographic Focus

Applications must demonstrate that grants will be used to serve people within the nine counties (Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Marion, Lake, Volusia, Brevard, Polk and Sumter) of the Diocese of Orlando.

Organizations Eligible for Funding

An applicant must qualify as a not-for-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and must meet Catholic-compliant eligibility requirements (operate in compliance with Catholic social teachings – see the [USCCB website](#).)

For non-diocesan organizations, annual revenue must be less than **\$15 million** as reported on the organization's most recent IRS Form 990.

Programs addressing housing, food insecurity, education, faith formation, culture of life, medical and behavioral health services are examples of the types of programs funded. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. Programs that are sustainable, collaborative and have more than one funding source are preferred.

Please see our [list of organizations](#) that have been pre-approved to receive funding through our Donor Advised Fund Program. Organizations on this list will be eligible for WPGC grants.

The following are not eligible for funding:

- Annual drives, annual giving campaigns, or other fundraising activities (for example races, galas, et al including purchase of tables/teams, or fees paid to be an event sponsor.)
- Activities and programs not directly related to the organization's mission
- Matching gift programs
- Organizational endowments
- Capital projects, fixtures, furniture (*except for items that directly benefit project participants*)
- Direct or indirect administrative costs

- Payments of grants or other assistance to current/former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, creator/founder, substantial donor or employee thereof, grant selection member, or 35% controlled entities including employees or family members of these persons
- Membership dues including dues paid to affiliated organizations
- Amounts paid to professional fundraising services
- Meetings or retreats
- Deficit reduction
- Political activities or political action committees (including lobbying)
- Organizations that provide contraceptives (or partner with organization that do), engage in embryonic stem cell research or actively teach a faith other than Catholicism.

If you have any questions about your organization or program's eligibility, please contact Lisa Oliveras at (407) 246-7177.

Grant Awards

Grants requests of \$5,000 and less will be considered for funding. If a program can be successfully scaled to provide significant impact, increased funding up to \$10,000 may be considered. Grant awards, which are announced in October, must be expended by June 1 of the following year. This restricted grant may be used only for the purpose stated in the grant application. If a funded program is not implemented, grant funds must be returned to the WPGC. If a program is not actively completed or is discontinued during the grant period, unexpended funds must be returned to the WPGC.

Organizations applying for a grant must be willing to:

- allow members to come for a site visit in July/August 2026.
- attend the Pitch Party scheduled for September 11, 2026.
- attend the Grant Awardee Celebration scheduled for October 23, 2026.
- submit a report by June 1, 2027 detailing how the grant dollars were expended and impact of program funded.
- allow members to come for a site visit to see the outcome of the program for which funding was received. We hope to schedule these for Summer 2027, but we will work with each organization on date/time that works best for everyone.

Apply for Grant Awards

An organization may submit only one grant proposal per grant cycle.

At the current time, an organization that receives a grant cannot be funded two years in a row. Organizations that receive funding may reapply only after the following conditions have been met: (1) the funds granted have been spent as specified in the grant application; (2) the organization has complied with all other conditions of the grant, including submitting the grant report and participating in the site visit; and (3) two full grant cycles have passed (e.g. if you received a grant award in 2025, you may apply again in 2028).

An organization that did not receive a grant in a funding cycle is eligible to reapply for a grant for that same or another program during the next grant cycle.

Application Process

The WPGC welcomes grant applications from organizations that meet our granting criteria.

Application Deadline: June 1, 2026 at 5:00PM

Emails announcing the invitation to apply for a grant are sent in April to nonprofit organizations within the defined geographic area who are pre-approved as part of The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida’s Donor Advised Fund Program. If you would like to be added to this mailing list, please send an email request to loliveras@cfocf.org. However, being on the mailing list is not a prerequisite for submitting an application.

Grant applications must be submitted using the online grant application form at www.cfocf.org/womensgivingcircle. **Note: A WPGC member cannot be the contact person for a grant application.**

Applications are accepted during a two-month period that begins on April 1, 2026 and must be submitted no later than 5:00PM on June 1, 2026.

Information collected on the online grant application includes:

Diocesan Parish, School or Ministry Cover Sheet	Non-Diocesan Organization Cover Sheet
Organization Name	Organization Name
Organization Website	Organization Website
501(c)(3) Status/EIN #	501(c)(3) Status/EIN #
Contact Information - name, job title, phone number, email and address	Contact Information - name, job title, phone number, email and address
Size of Organization (employees/volunteers)	Size of Organization (employees/volunteers)
Total Organization Budget Amount	Total Organization Budget Amount
Vision and Mission Statement	Vision and Mission Statement
Organizational Values (optional)	Organizational Values (optional)
Geographic Area Served	Geographic Area Served
Number of parish families/student body/population served (annually)	Number of people served annually
Demographics of those served	Demographics of those served
Upload photo of ministry in action (optional)	Upload photo of ministry in action (optional)
Year Founded	Year Founded
Upload 990 (optional)	Upload 990
Strategy/Sustainability Plan (optional)	Strategy/Sustainability Plan (optional)

Grant Application Narrative

Requested funding is for:

- a new program
- expansion of an existing program

If new, do you have other sources for funding? If existing, how is it currently funded?

Name of the program

Grant request amount (max request is \$5,000)

In three to five sentences, describe the program for funding consideration. What community needs will be addressed and how is this new or expanded program is addressing the need(s)? Who is the person in charge of running the program, and what is his/her current role?

Briefly describe how you plan to use the funds you are requesting and the anticipated impact on program participants that you hope to achieve.

Are there other organization(s) already providing this or a similar program? If so, how is your program unique? Please also note if would you be partnering/collaborating with those or any other organization(s) to deliver your program services or activities.

What ultimate outcome(s) and long-term results do you hope to achieve with this program? What do you believe can be achieved during the grant cycle (October 2026 - June 2027)? What metrics will you track to measure the outcome and impact of this program?

If your organization were to receive more than the amount requested, could the program be scaled to increase impact? How could the additional funds be used?

If you receive funding in October 2026, will you be able to implement this program and expend the funding by June 1, 2027?

- Yes
- No (If no, please explain)

Grant Application Review Process

The grant application review process begins with a thorough evaluation of all submitted applications to confirm their completeness and adherence to the established grant criteria. The Grant Committee will carefully assess each eligible application and determine an appropriate number to advance to the initial round of member voting. To promote transparency and educational opportunities, all eligible applications will be made available for members to review, enabling them to gain insights into good work happening through each organization.

The first round of voting will take place in June 2026. *Note: a WPGC member who is an employee or board member of an eligible organization must recuse herself from voting for that organization.*

The Executive Committee will review the voting results. Based on the votes and the amount of grant dollars available, the Executive Committee will invite a limited number of organizations to the WPGC Pitch Party scheduled for September 11, 2026. At the Pitch Party, invited organizations will have 5 minutes to showcase the impact this grant would have on those served. There will be another 5 minutes allotted for questions posed by members.

The week following the Pitch Party, the members will have the opportunity to prayerfully discern their votes which will be cast via an online system. *Note: any member who is an employee or board member of an eligible organization must recuse herself from voting for that organization.*

The Executive Committee will review the results of the voting process and make the final determination on grant awards.

Grant award winners will be contacted and invited to the WPGC Grant Awardee Celebration on October 23, 2026, at which grant checks will be distributed.