

Thank you for your interest in this year's CRS Rice Bowl, local grant application opportunity!

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. A Rice Bowl is a simple cardboard box used to collect Lenten alms. It comes with a Lenten calendar that guides families throughout the 40 days of Lent with activities, reflections, stories and opportunities to put alms in their Rice Bowl. Parishes, dioceses and Catholic Schools across the United States order materials to hand out to families ahead of each Lent.

Rooted in the history of the Eucharistic Congress, CRS Rice Bowl invites Catholics and faith communities in the United States to encounter God and our global family throughout Lent by practicing the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 130 different countries. **Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. These funds are awarded through our CRS Rice Bowl, local grant opportunity.**

2025-26 Grant Timeline

December 8th	Applications open
January 22nd	Application deadline
Mid-January	Grant application review
February 2026	Recommendations sent to Bishop
February 2026	Grant awards announced, award letters and checks mailed

Grant Requirements

Goal	Hunger and poverty related programs
Catholic Social Teaching	Written agreement of compliance
Low-Income Benefit	Minimum of 75% or more of program beneficiaries are low-income
Partisan Political Activity	No participation permitted

Grant Awards

Applications will be reviewed by a local committee before being submitted to the Bishop for approval. Grant awards are likely to range between \$500 - \$2,000. We anticipate that this will be a competitive grant round and sadly expect not being able to fund all requests. Please contact Amy Pereira at apereira@ccwestmi.org with any questions.