

GRANT MAKING OVERVIEW

Objective

To ensure that the under-resourced and isolated dioceses of the United States and U.S. territories have the capacity to carry out and develop their mission.

Grant Programs

Catholic Extension serves the pastoral mission of the Church by ensuring that the essential ministries of the U.S. dioceses are intact and by helping the dioceses build their capacity for the future. To support the faith life in these under-resourced and isolated mission areas, Catholic Extension provides funding through the following grant programs:

- **Category One: Building the Foundation:** Funds the operation of basic diocesan ministries in extremely under-resourced areas.
- **Category Two: Building Faith:** Funds the incubation and promotion of best practices in faith formation and the work of evangelization.
- **Category Three: Building Leaders:** Funds pastoral leadership training for ordained, lay, and volunteer leaders.
- **Category Four: Building Churches:** Funds the construction and renovation of churches and critical facilities.
- **Category Five: Building Capacity:** Funds particular initiatives which help dioceses raise money, operate more efficiently, & promote transparency.

Projects that Fall Outside of Grant Programs

Although the causes named below might intersect closely with the Church's pastoral mission, Catholic Extension has determined that at the present moment these ministries are not the primary targets of our grant making programs:

- Operations funding for diocesan Catholic Charities
- Operations and facility funding for Catholic hospitals
- Tuition assistance and basic education expenses for Catholic schools

Even though these types of requests are not likely to fit our various funding areas, Catholic Extension hopes eventually to increase its capacity as a Catholic referral agency for grant-seekers and inquirers.

Formerly Independent Programs Absorbed into the New Grant Programs

Catholic Extension will continue to serve as a powerful resource for Catholic communities in under-resourced and isolated areas. The former grant programs listed below all supported very important needs and activities in mission dioceses. However, the process by which we receive requests and respond to those needs have been restructured so that they synchronize with our new funding procedures and initiatives.

- **Mass Offerings:** Mass offering requests are handled through the Building the Foundation grant program. A diocesan bishop must specifically request mass offerings. The amount distributed will directly correspond to the availability of donor-directed funds and intentions received by Catholic Extension. Mass offerings will be granted only to the poorest dioceses, those eligible for Building the Foundation funding. To request funding for mass offerings, please contact the Catholic Extension Grants Department.
- **Bibles:** Any learning material and resource needs for programs or special ministries will now be addressed through the Building the Foundation and Building Faith grant programs. Catholic Extension is no longer able to warehouse bibles or other catechetical resource material.
- **Liturgical Goods:** Requests for liturgical goods are handled through the Building the Foundation grant program. Because Catholic Extension is no longer able to warehouse liturgical goods, we are working with a liturgical goods company to help us process the donation, restoration, and proper re-circulation of new and used liturgical goods (vestments, chalices, etc.). Donations of salvageable liturgical goods to Catholic Extension will enable us to make grants of liturgical goods to the most under-resourced mission churches. To request assistance with liturgical goods, please contact the Catholic Extension Grants Department.
- **Disaster Recovery:** Catholic Extension will accept applications only for specific types of disaster recover assistance through the Building the Foundation, Building Faith, and Building Churches grants programs. Catholic Extension is aware that when catastrophic events occur they cause severe disruption to the lives of the faithful. We believe that we do have a role in helping communities in their recovery efforts. This role, however, is very specific. In the event of catastrophe, natural or otherwise, a mission diocese can utilize the grants process to request funds to restore disrupted ecclesial services and help meet the facility needs of the affected communities over the long-term. It is beyond the scope of Catholic Extension's mission to act as first responders in relief efforts. We entrust relief work responsibilities to the federal and state governments as well as the numerous other faith-based and community organizations whose mission is more closely aligned with these types of relief activities, such as Catholic Charities USA, The Society of St. Vincent Paul, American Red Cross, etc.
- **Religious Education and Campus Ministry:** Any needs that this program formerly handled will be will addressed in the Building Faith and Building the Foundation grant programs. These continue to be very important components of our grant-making.